



★ "20th." Cab. 7.2

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Vol. 1



~~FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND~~
~~OF~~ THE 20TH REGIMENT -
MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE
- CITY OF BOSTON -

John C. Ropes

13 December. 1888.

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20th Regt. Coll.
Col. 1.

Committee of Officers of the 20th Mass. Vol. Infantry.
Apr. 20. 1905.

RECEIVED
APR 20 1905
OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Head Quarters 20th Regiment
Mass. Volunteers.
November 17th, 1863.

My dear Ropes,

I write merely to enclose these letters relating to dear Henry, some from himself and some from his friends, one from you. Short as they are they recall so strongly the modesty and nobility that made everybody love him, so much that I know you would like to see them, though it makes me feel saddened for the rest of the day.

Your sincere friend
H. L. Abbott.

They were found in the old Adjutant's desk which we have just got from Washington.

Boston, October 30th, 1861.

Lt. Colonel Palfrey.

My dear Sir,

I enclose a note to you from Mrs. Col. Lee, introducing me to you as an applicant for the post of second Lieutenant in your Regiment. I applied to Col. Lee for a commission when the Regiment was first formed, and he was kind enough to offer me a second Lieutenancy, which I was at last constrained to refuse. The difficulties which then stood in my way have been removed, and I now would respectfully solicit from you the same commission.

I feel, Sir, that I am as yet but very slightly

acquainted with military matters, having learnt all I know at the Harvard College Drill Club, but I now daily attend the new Rifle Club here, and hope soon to fit myself for the post. I have heard that the Regiment are to retire for the present from active service to recruit its men, and have supposed that several new Officers are to be appointed.

I also enclose three letters from Mr. Geo. O. Shattuck, from Mr. Sidney Willard, and from my brother.

I remain with great respect

Your obedient servant,
Henry Ropes.

— " —

Boston, October 30th, 1861.

Dear Valfrey,

Henry Ropes, a son of Wm. Ropes, Esqr. of this city, would like to be a second Lieutenant in the twentieth Regiment.

He is a member of the class of 1862 at Harvard, and is well known to many of the Officers of the Regiment.

Henry Ropes was one of the race crew of the Harvard Boat Club and physically is all that could be desired.

As to character and pluck generally, if you know anything of the family, it is only necessary to say that he is one of them.

I learn that Col. Lee offered him a commission, but he did not then accept it, in consequence of objections in the family. The fact that they are now ready to have him go to fill the place of some one

of those who have fallen at the post of duty, leaves nothing to be said of their spirit. I know of no man whose personal qualities seem to me to recommend him more highly for the post he desires, than do Ropes.

I think you will not hesitate to give him the post, if it is in your power.

Truly Yours,

Geo. C. Shattuck.

— " —

Boston, October 30th, 1861.

Lt. Colonel Palfrey,
20th Regiment.

Dear Sir,

Learning that Mr. Henry Ropes was desirous of making an application for a second Lieutenancy in your Regiment, allow me to say a few words in his behalf and commend him to your most favorable consideration.

I have the pleasure to say, from the experience gained in drilling several hundred men since the beginning of the year, that I consider, that Mr. Ropes will be a very valuable acquisition to your command; he is fairly drilled and is rapidly becoming thoroughly so; he is young and athletic, with plenty of energy and a very great deal of common sense; he is at present a Senior at Harvard and I believe is personally known to several of your Officers. And I must say in conclusion that he is well fitted to keep up the reputation which the Officers of the 20th have earned, for cool and determined bravery.

With great respect I remain

Yours

Sidney Willard

Boston, October 30th, 1861.

Lieut. Col. Palfrey.

Dear Sir,

Will you allow me to second the application of my brother Henry Ropes for a second Lieutenancy in the 20th Regiment? He would have gone in the Regiment in that capacity, had it not been for the strenuous objections of his parents; but now that the late terrible battle has so greatly thinned the ranks of the Regiment, and deprived it of the services of so many of its Officers, he has renewed his application, and our family are all very desirous that he should obtain the commission. Perhaps it may not be out of place for me to add, that he is generally thought to be fitted for the post.

Quartermaster-General Reed told me to-day that the Governor gave commissions to those who were recommended by the Officers in command of Regiments, if approved by the Brigadier-General, but that he thought that vacant commissions were generally given to Warrant-Officers; but, may I suggest, that among so many vacancies, one might be selected from among the old friends, and college companions, of so many of the Officers of the 20th.

With great respect I remain,

Your obed't servant,

John C. Ropes.

Cambridge, November 12th, 1861.

Lt. Colonel Palfrey.

Dear Sir,

I received last evening your letter of November 4th in reply to mine applying for a commission in

your Regiment.

I am very sorry that no vacancy now exists, but will feel greatly obliged to you if you will consider me among the applicants for any future vacancy if it may occur.

Thanking you for your kind consideration of my application, I remain with great respect,

Yours very truly,

Henry Ropes.

"

Boston, November 21st, 1861.

Lt. Colonel Valfrey.

Dear Sir,

I have received this morning your letter of November 15th. On the receipt of your former letter informing me that no vacancies then existed, I wrote to you in reply, begging you to keep my application upon your list. I fear that you did not receive this letter. I feel greatly obliged to you for the interest you have kindly manifested in my case, and would be most happy to receive an appointment whenever you may see fit to offer one to me.

With great respect I remain

Your obedient servant,

Henry Ropes.

"

Boston, November 28th, 1861.

At. Col. W. H. Palfrey,

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of November 15th and have delayed to answer it until I could present your letters to the Governor and receive his answers. This I have done, and find that nothing has as yet been decided in regard to the 20th Regiment, but when anything is done, my case will be considered on your recommendation. It would give me great pleasure to serve in any capacity at your camp. I hear that Mr. Perkins, mentioned in your last letter, is now at the seat of war.

With renewed thanks I remain with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

Henry Kopes.

Boston, December 14th, 1861.

At. Colonel Palfrey,

Dear Sir,

I have been appointed a 2d Lieutenant in your Regiment, in the place of Mr. Gordon Bolles, just resigned. I had made use of your letters to prove that it was your wish to have me appointed to the next vacancy, and had presented whatever recommendations I could obtain.

I first heard of my appointment yesterday afternoon, and this morning I have been to the State House and am told that I shall receive my commission from you at the camp. I am told to report myself to the Adjutant General when I am ready to go, and that then I shall receive an order to proceed to the camp.

I do not know how long it will take me to get my uniform made and my outfit got ready, but I understand, in general, it takes a fortnight. I should therefore like to have that length of time, and start from Boston on the 25th. I am now arriving in camp December 31st or January 1st, but I can get ready to start at any time you may direct, and I will be at your camp on any day you may please to order me.

As I should like to pass a day in New York, if possible, I would therefore be obliged to you if you would state what day I shall appear at your camp.

Thanking you, Sir, for your kind recommendation, I remain with great respect

Your obedient servant,
Henry Ropes.

Cambridge, December 4th, 1861.

W. L. Garrison, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I find that a great number of applications for commissions have been made at the State House, some by men who have spent money in recruiting men, and have now been waiting a long time for promised commissions. I have tried to get a promise that whenever you may nominate me I shall have the post in your Regiment, but am told that other claims are prior, and cannot wait so well as I can, and therefore I fear that in spite of your nomination I may be passed over.

I have found it impossible to get at the

Governor himself, and have been obliged to present my claims through Col. H. Lee, one of the Aides. He seems very unwilling to admit my claim to the next place, provided I receive your nomination, and said that had he been present he would have opposed granting a commission to Mr. Mason. His reasons are that others have prior and superior claims on the Government.

Hearing that a vacancy has just occurred by the resignation of Capt. Browninshield, and fearing that my claims here would be thought slight, unless your nomination was very positive, I have written to beg you, if you see fit to nominate me, to do so with as much earnestness as possible, that the wish to have me in your Regiment you have been so kind as to express, may not be disregarded, and my own hopes dashed, by the appointment of a person you do not nominate. I shall do everything in my power to secure a commission whenever I may receive your nomination.

I remain with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

Henry Ropes.

Boston, December 26th, 1861.

Lt. Colonel Valfrey.

My dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of December 21st, and desire to express my warmest thanks for the kindness you have shown me in procuring for me this appointment. It shall be my endeavor to show

by a faithful discharge of my duties, that I appreciate your kindness, and that it has not been misplaced.

I am making all haste with my preparations, and shall avail myself of your kindness by remaining till Saturday, December 28th, when I expect to be fully ready to go. If nothing prevents, I shall leave New York on Sunday evening or Monday morning and arrive in the camp on Tuesday afternoon, December 31st.

I remain with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

Henry Ropes.

— 11 —

Camp Benton,
January 18th, 1862.

Colonel,

I understand that Lieut. Ropes was attached to my company temporarily. He has made a very favorable impression upon me, seeming to be a man of character, honor, and of correct principles. The men of the company also like him much. It should be gratified by his being permanently assigned to Company A.

Respectfully &c.

A. Shepard

Capt. Comp. Co.

20th Regiment, Mass. Volunteers.

Lt. Col. W. H. Wallcut,

Commanding 20th Reg. Mass. Vol.

Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York
December 20th 1861.

My dear Father.

I thank you very much for your kind letter which I read in the cars on my way here. I shall always endeavor to do my duty as you say, humbly trusting in God for strength and support under whatever circumstances I may be placed. I thank you for all the advice contained in the letter and I shall try to profit by it.

I had a safe and comfortable journey, arrived at 3 O'clk and came here. I took a chamber, washed and felt perfectly refreshed. I breakfasted at about 3 O'clk and then walked to Mr. Trask's. Saw them all, and found all well. I have dined with Mr. Trask's and twice attended Dr. Adams' Church. I shall take tea with them and return to this house early, and expect to take the 7 O'clk train to-morrow for Washington via Baltimore, where I shall try to spend an hour. I am perfectly well.

With much love I remain

Your affectionate son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton,
January 1st 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote to Mother from Washington on Monday evening, and on Tuesday morning I left by the Stage for Bolesville, Md. where I arrived at 5 P.M. over a road the last part of which was most horrible. I rode outside all the way in company with Mr. Tour, the balloonist, a very entertaining man. He is the Chief of the Balloon Signal Department on the Potomac, and has charge of seven balloons. He lately went up with Mr. Kellum. He has seen a great deal of the world, having been with Fremont across the Rocky Mountains, twice crossed South America from Rio to Peru, and once in North America from the Hudson's Bay settlements to the Red River. He was a very entertaining man, and I had a very pleasant ride. He asked me to call on him at his Station on the river here and perhaps I shall get an opportunity to go up with him.

I had to wait a long time at Bolesville for a wagon to take me and my luggage to Camp, but at last got one, and rode to the Camp. It was very dark, the Sentinel challenged, and I explained my visit and before long was passed in. I found Col. Mifflin in a log hut about 12 feet square, and he received me very kindly, as did

all the Officers. I hear to-day that I am to be at first in Company
L. Capt. Shepard, as his 1st Lieutenant is away, but my regular
Company is to be M. Capt. Cabot, Lieut. Harry Sturgis. This
is a most excellent place. Sturgis is one neighbor's son and a very
fine fellow. Cabot is an old soldier, was with the British in the
Sepoy Rebellion and is considered a first rate Officer. At present
I shall act as 1st Lieutenant. I am more than satisfied with my
place. All the Officers here have treated me most kindly and done
everything for me. I slept soundly last night in Hallowell's tent.
All the tents have either iron stoves or large stone chimneys
built lately by the men, which answer as an open fire place. Most
of the tents are floored and there are several log huts, which are perfect-
ly comfortable. I find the tents much more comfortable than I ex-
pected, and the weather is warm, and very pleasant. The 7th Michigan
Regiment is camped near us and they have built a long row of log
barracks, where they are as comfortable as at home. They can all
write and write skillfully. I have received no letters as yet of course.
Give my love to all and believe me

Your affectionate son
Henry Ropes

P.S. I am perfectly well and expect to be
on duty in two days. Give all a happy new year from me.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp Benton, Monday morning
January 6th 1862.

My dear Father.

I leave this camp this morning with 55 men of my Company, who with detachments from other Companies, in all 100 men, are detached for picket duty on the river about 8 miles from here. The Michigan Regiment who preceded us have built excellent log huts and I expect to be perfectly comfortable. The detachment is commanded by Capt. Beckwith. We shall be absent a week, and as I properly shall not be able to write while there I thought I would write you this hasty note lest the lack of letters from me should make you anxious.

We have had an inch or two of snow, and it is cold, but I do not suffer at all. Perhaps I shall be able to write from my station.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Ropes

Camp Benton, Monday evening
January 13th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have just returned from a week's picket duty and hasten to tell you of my safety and good health. My Captain (Shepard) being unable to go with us, I had the charge of a detachment of 46 men from my Company, and we had detachments from 2 other Companies, one under Lt. Fatten, and the other under Capt. Beckwith, who being the Senior Officer, commanded the whole Battalion. We marched first to Edwards' Ferry, about 2 miles, and I then first saw the Rebels picketed on the other side of the Potomac. The river here is nearly as wide as from our house to Cambridge Bridge. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal runs close to the river on this side, and our pickets are placed on the tow-path between the Canal and the river, the whole way to Washington, or as far as the situation of our troops makes it necessary. The river is generally straight, with many long low islands, and the banks are everywhere woody. The distance between the Canal and river is about 100 to 300 feet, and varies. We marched along this tow-path, in sight and hearing of the rebel pickets of Cavalry and foot, leaving 6 or 7 men at each post. About every half mile there is a log shanty where the men live. Lt. Fatten's Company began to be posted at the Ferry, and he was left in charge. Then

Capt. Beckwith's and mine last. We had in all 100 men. We left 6 men of my company to bring along the provisions on the ice of the canal which was frozen. The river was full of floating ice. It was quite cold. The Captain only went as far as his post and then left it to me. All the men were armed and accoutered fully with 40 rounds each, and had their Kuapacks and blankets, we marched slowly, and it was 11 O'clk before I had posted my last picket. This was about 10 miles from Camp. Through some mistake of the Quartermaster's Department, the provision was left some 6 miles above my lower post, and the men detailed to bring it broke through the ice and lost a large part. It was not till late in the evening that I got a small supply to my posts, and this caused me a long walk nearly to the other end of the line. I took up my abode at post No. 12. They begin at Edwards' Ferry and number down nearly to Seneca Mills, in all 12 posts. As the Captain did not know the exact number of posts when he left me to finish posting the men, he gave me too many for my Company, and I was obliged to leave only 3 and 4 men at some of the lower posts. It was not till dark that I got back to my hut and took my first mouthful of food since breakfast. I had there my first sergeant, an excellent man, and 3 men. At each post sentinels are put out at dark, and kept on watch all night. They rest during the day. After 12 O'clock at night I visit every post of my Company, (I had 9) challenge the sentinels and see that all is right.

This gave me 8 miles more of walking, in all about 24 miles that day. At 8 O'Clock every evening the "patrol" as it is called is passed up, and repeated every 2 hours during the night. The man at the last post sends the word "All well" to the next post, he to the next, and so on throughout the whole line. Every morning I send to the Captain a report of the occurrences of the night. Nothing of importance occurred on Monday night, and on Tuesday evening I was ordered to remove my upper post and to reinforce the others so that at least 5 men should be on each. This I did. At the same time orders came down from Headquarters to keep a particularly sharp look out, and I therefore placed Sergeant Champion at post 14, where there was a thick wood just on the other side of the canal, and which I considered an important post: Champion is an old regular, went through Mexico with Scott, and is a man to be depended upon. Soon word was sent to me of shouts from the woods, and signal lights to those across the river. There is a long island here, not farther from our pickets than from our house to Dr. Sharp's Church. Just at dusk the Sentinel at my post saw a body of men on the island about 30 he thought. I gave orders to post double sentries. The standing orders I gave were not to fire except in case of attack, for every picket to be under arms at the sound of a shot, for those on either side to support the one attacked, for word instantly to be sent to me, and for all to rally on me in case of a real attack, which last was of course very unlikely to happen.

I kept on the alert and at 12 O'clk started on my regular rounds. It was still and starlight. Opposite the wood I found the sentinel lying down, and on my questioning him, I found that he had heard the steps of a man in the wood opposite, had called Sergeant Champion who had also heard them distinctly, and just before I came along he had heard the snap of a cap, and had laid down to get a shot at the Rebel or whoever it was. The snapping of the cap, might have been the man's imagination, but there was no doubt as to the man in the woods, who certainly was there for no good purpose. This country is full of secret enemies, who are only restrained by the presence of our troops. The next night I was hastily summoned to a lower post where the sentinels had seen a boat approaching the shore. It was foggy, and I hardly believed it, but I was obliged to tramp down to the extremity of the line, double the sentinels, and keep awake and visit the exposed posts both at night and an hour before dawn.

Then we had rainy weather, but no more alarms. Signals however were often shown from the hills, and we constantly saw the enemy's pickets. For 2 days it was very cold and the river was frozen so as to bear, and then I had to keep an extra look out. Still sleep with arms loaded, capped and at half cock, and belts on. I do not suppose they would cross just to attack us, but they might, and we are 10 miles from Camp between a river and a canal, and we must keep on the alert. Although it was hard work, a good

deal of walking and not much sleep at night. I enjoyed the thing, and I think it was a very good experience. My post was the most distant.

I hope I have not tired you by giving so many little particulars, but I dare say some of the family will like to hear them. I am well and very comfortable.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton, January 20th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have to acknowledge your letter of January 11th and also that of the 15th by Capt. Bartlett, together with the knapsack and its contents. We can get really no news at all here and I am always very glad to hear through your letters what the prospects of the war are. In the knapsack are 2 papers which I shall take great pleasure in reading. We have had heavy and continued rains for 24 days now, and the mud is dreadfully deep. It would be well nigh impossible to advance through such roads except for a few days with some village to quarter in before the troops had been long exposed to the wet.

The men are so well supplied with stockings and mittens that I have been unable to dispose of those I brought but they will be needed before long no doubt. I would like you to send me a package of tracts for the men. One of my Company said he should like some. As I wrote to John, it is only necessary to do up in a package anything I write for and I will notify you where to send it or have it called for, so that it may come down by something, returning to. Furlough. Capt. Beckwith, my commander on picket, and Lieut. Whittier both of this Regiment leave to day for Boston and I dare say they would be glad to bring down everything you may have to send.

Since I have been here, there has not been any religious service in the camp, except at the burial of a poor man wounded at Ball's Bluff, which took place the Sunday before last. Col. Palfrey, then read the Episcopal service in a very impressive manner. There is quite a good Episcopal Church at Rockville, about 2 1/2 miles off where I shall try to go, but the Capt. has been heretofore and when he goes I must stay with the Company. I think we ought to have a Chaplain and the Government is remiss in not appointing one.

Please to give my love to all and believe me

Your affectionate Son
Henry Ropes.

Camp Benton, January 23^d 1862.

My Dear Father.

I received last night a large number of letters including one from you of January 13th for which I am very much obliged. I am glad my letter about picket did not tire you. If I ever get home I shall take great pleasure in looking them over. As you say, I ought constantly to feel that my life is uncertain, and to be prepared, and I hope that I do feel so. I have the same opportunity for private devotion here that I had at home, for I am alone in the tent. I generally rise some time before reveille, and have a half hour for prayer and reading. Although we may at any time be called on to face danger, it is impossible to keep up a feeling of seriousness on that account, but I am surprised to find an under current of religious feeling here, in many men whom I am sure at home are rarely troubled with thoughts about death and another world. One who has always been considered wild and dissipated in Boston, told me that before the battle of Ball's Bluff he spent some time in prayer, and that it did him so much good, and so fixed his mind on religious things, that he felt during and after the battle that he was never in so fit a state to die as at that time. I think that in general the young men here (only 2 or 3 of whom are communicants) are much more seriously disposed and are better men than they were at home in Boston.

there

is no immorality here at all, and no opportunity for it, and no obscenity
in conversation. I was almost astonished at the total absence of
this last vice, which is often very common among young men. I
have written thus fully on these matters, because you have given me so
much kind advice in your letters, and I thought you would like to know
how things are here. For myself, the only religious exercise I
have in the least omitted is church going. Hitherto I have been
unable to go, but I hope in future to attend frequently.

It has to-day ceased to rain, but is very cloudy and damp. Genl.
Stone has been here, and estimated our strength &c., and it is said is
preparing for a move. Quartermaster Folsom however told me
a long march was impossible in the present state of the roads. I
rejoiced to hear last night of the victory in Kentucky. I hope we
shall soon take Bowling Green, and then if Burnside makes a success-
ful move the Rebels must concentrate somewhere or be driven by
superior numbers from every strong hold. I hardly think we shall
attack them here till a victory is gained nearer the sea-coast. I
felt very much grieved to hear of Mr. Codman's death. He was an
excellent man, and a good husband and father and very generally respected.
I did not suppose I should see him again when I left. I shall add a
few words to Mother on the next page. Perhaps the first part of this letter had
better not be read out loud.

I remain

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton
January 31st 1862.

My dear Father.

I have just received your letter of January 20th, with
Mother's of same date enclosed. For both which please accept my thanks.
The Mail usually gets in by 8 O'clock P.M. and the Sergeant, who al-
ways gets the mail for the Company, usually gives me my letters be-
fore evening roll-call at 8 O'clock, at which I have to be present.
Then I have the rest of the evening to answer them. We have now had
a constant succession of snow and rain storms for 20 days. There was
in that time only one fair day, last Sunday, when I was on guard.
The mud is terrible, and in spite of rubber boots, knee high, you get
spattered terribly, and it is a regular journey to visit another tent.
Generally, however it has been too much to freeze at night, but not
much of late. I am much obliged for the tracts which I shall distribute.
As to my money matters I felt that you had fitted me out most hand-
sandy, and supplied me with a large sum at starting, and I also
knew that my pay was more than enough for my support, so I felt an-
xious to put you to no expense for my own support. I feel very grate-
ful at your and mother's kindness as expressed in your letters, and
can only say that I shall accept most thankfully any gifts you may
send, any articles of luxury for the table and the like, but I should

still prefer to have John charge me with common things such as clothing, necessaries of food and the like. I think there is abundant room for presents outside of such ordinary matters. If I were at home, I should receive many presents, and at the same time pay for my coats and my shoes. I hope you will do as you see best taking this into consideration. As regards to my pay, I find my Commission was purposely dated November 25th so that I should be on an equality in the Regiment with Lieuts. E. Potter & Mason who both received their Commissions before me. I am thus entitled to pay from November 25th and at the next payday, which comes as soon after the first of March as the Paymaster can come to the Regiment, I shall receive a little more than 3 months pay, in all about \$330.00. Of this sum \$100.00 will more than support me for the next 2 months, and \$50.00 more will pay all bills I shall have out at that time, including any account I may have at Boston. I shall thus be able to send home about \$130.00 to be credited to me by you, or placed in a Bank or otherwise invested. I shall in future be able to save $\frac{1}{3}$ of my pay, and send that home every payday and this without at all stinting myself in whatever is useful and needed here. This is of course in case all should go on well with me here. The only time ^{when} I should want for money would probably be between now and next payday. Of the \$100.00 you gave me when I started from home, I have already spent about \$30. in travelling, here, and in fitting up my tent, and other expenses necessary to set up housekeeping,

as it were, besides paying Cash for daily food for myself and boy.
I should however have been abundantly supplied had I been out any
sooner, for then the Paymaster would have given me about \$100.- for
December pay, but I was too late for the muster, and this amount will
go to make up my \$300.- next time. I should therefore be very much
obliged, if you would send to me about \$25. any time before the middle
of February, allowing me to repay the same when I send home my pay
in March. It might be sent in U. S. bills, enclosed in letters, say
\$5. at a time, for safety, or sent by some one in colts, in which case
I should prefer gold dollars entirely. Capt. Ship. are would no doubt
be happy to bring it.

I have written thus fully on this subject, that you may know
exactly how I stand, and may feel that as soon as I begin to receive
my regular pay I shall be well supported.

I am perfectly well, and have no news to tell. I am delighted
to hear of Adjutant Pardon's release and probable return to the
Regiment. I earnestly hope the Colonel will follow soon.

With love to all I remain

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton, 20th Regiment
February 11th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have just received your kind letter of February 8th enclosing a bill for \$5.00. You describe it as "No. 50005" whereas it is No. 1153, but I do not suppose this is of any consequence. I am much obliged to you for it and for your promise of sending a further supply. I have received Sister Mary's letter, and shall soon answer it. We have now had 2 fair days, and a prospect of continued fair weather, but very cold nights. As it is dry, we do not mind how cold it is. I am rejoiced to hear of our success in the West, and hope soon to hear ^{also} a good account from Burnside.

This morning we heard of Genl. Stone's arrest. It may be a report, but I fear it is true. There has been a pretty general distrust in him for a long time. As to sending me things, avoid the Express. Capt. Shepard will bring something; Capt. Cabot, just left on a leave of absence, kindly promised to see you and bring anything, and to-day a private of my Company, named John Smith, a very good man, has left on a furlough and will call at John's Office on February 14th or 15th, and he will take anything. Better send any large box (if you have any) by him, even if you pay him something, (which I do not think he will take.) Please tell John

when Smith will call.

I hope you will see Capt. Cabot. I have the very highest regard for him, both as a soldier and a Gentleman. He is one of the best Officers in the Regiment, and was with the British in the Sepoy Rebellion. I think with these 3 you can easily send everything. I have not yet received the box by Express. Col. Palfrey showed me to-day a letter from Col. Lee. It was written in a very cheerful tone, and spoke very kindly of Herbert Merson and myself. I have got a man out of my Company now as a servant, and am much more comfortable, as he cooks quite well. I had boiling yesterday for dinner and fried this morning for breakfast. I have also procured some parsnips and a goose, and anticipate a feast. I enclose a letter for mother.

Your affectionate son,
Henry Royce.

Camp Benton,
February 14th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have just received yours of the 12th enclosing one from Mother of same date one from Ziggy of the 10th, a small note about my box from Zennie, and a letter from Mary Ann of the 11th for all of which I am very much obliged.

I thank you and mother very much for sending me so many things in the box, but as I have written, the Express is a very costly means of transportation. If sent by a private haul I shall get them in 3 days after they leave you. I have as yet heard nothing from the Express Company concerning the box you sent weeks ago. I think enquiries ought to be made at the Office at Boston. Please tell me how the box was directed.

Genl. Sheres' arrest has been a good deal talked about. I never much credit his guilt. Now we are under Genl. Gorman, a very old and I hear foolish man. He has begun to shell the Rebels near us here, and yesterday I went down with Lt. Abbott to see the firing. It was a Rhode Island battery of heavy Parrott guns, but the practice was very poor. None of the shells hit the place aimed at, some did not burst at all, one turned over in the air making a very peculiar sound and some reached far enough. The guns are tremendous and the shell

make a very loud whizzing sound, which gradually dies away, and then you watch for a cloud of dust where it hits a mile off. There is a rebel fort in sight at which they are throwing the shells.

We were all very much excited here at the good news both from the East and West. I do not think we shall advance from this position. The Rebels are in great force opposite us, and have strong forts, and the advantage of position. Then the Rail Road to Jacoburg can bring them up reinforcements with great speed. We are getting ready however, and perhaps we may be ordered to some other part of the line. I suppose the best sign of an advance would be the appointment of a good General to this Division.

I am very anxious to hear from the 24th Regiment where our friends were. I enclose a letter for mother, and remain

Your affectionate son
Henry Roper.

Camp Benton.
February 22^d 1862.

My dear Father.

I have received your letter of the 19th and my servant has arrived safely bringing the Map and the Kindlings for which I am much obliged. Adjutant Pearson stayed for a day or two in Washington, and sent Henry Furckmeyer on with Capt. Shepard via Poolsville. The box is with the Adjutant's baggage, and I expect it to-night. Henry enquired for the first box in Washington, but it was not at the Office there. He brought me the receipt, and I have written to the Agents and expect to get it soon. I like Henry very much. I find him active and an excellent cook. I think I shall be perfectly satisfied with him. I am very much obliged for the good things in the box and have no doubt they will afford a great deal of pleasure to me and to my friends here.

Adjutant Pearson is expected to-day.

Yesterday we sent down reinforcements to the river, and the Rebels brought down guns &c. and seemed to be about to cross, but as yet nothing has occurred. The pickets were firing at each other all along when I heard last. I think however it would be madness in them to attempt the passage of the river in the face of our guns, to say nothing of the troops they would meet when they had got over.

Genl. Sedgwick was announced this morning at dress parade as
Storrs' successor. I hear none but good accounts of him. Genl. Lane
has returned and was at this camp this morning. In him all our men
have unbounded confidence. He was Colonel of the 2^d Minnesota Regt.
-iment now near us. The whole Regiment is now drilling in the bayonet
exercise and practising long runs in double quick time and the movements
in echelon. The latter are very beautiful movements. Capt. Shepard
has got back. Capt. Collet is to return to-morrow.

Howe thank Mother for her letters, and say I shall reply
fully when I get the box.

I hear from the Captain that business is already looking up
in Boston and the general opinion is that by next 21th fifty there will
be no vestige of Rebellion left.

I enclose a note for Sissy.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Grand House. Provost Guard,
Bolesville Me. February 28th 1862

My dear Father.

I wrote you that we marched to Bolesville on the 25th and on the 26th just at evening. I was ordered to march to Camp Benton with Lts. Sanger and Mallowell and 90 men to strike and pack our tents &c. It was raining and fearfully muddy and we carried our blankets on our backs and our provision in our haversacks and got back to the old camp by 8 O'clock. We all slept in one of the winter tents after being very well entertained by Dr. Hayward, who remained with the sick in hospital. It was a very rainy night but cleared off in the morning with a tremendous Northwester. We rose at daylight and had all the tents struck and everything ready by 10 O'clk and then marched back here. The Rebels have been throwing shells at night lately. One fell a little short of our old camp the other night and one went over. We have two guards here, the regular Camp Guard, and the Provost Guard in the town. I am Officer of the Provost to-day. We had hard work yesterday, for we struck all the 15th's tents and brought up and pitched our own in spite of the tremendous wind. To-day is quite cold but very fine, with another strong N. W. wind. Mr. Chellan is above us, over

40,000 men have crossed, and vast quantities of troops are pouring up the Canal. I hear we are to move in two days. I am making every preparation. It seems as if the grand advance is to be near us here. If we move of course my letters will be very irregular. I hope to see John first. I am rejoiced to hear of the Colonel's liberation and hope he will soon assume command.

Your affectionate son
Henry Ropes.

Camp Benson, Arizona
February 24th 1862, 6.30 P.M.

My dear Father.

We have just been summoned by the Colonel and ordered to prepare ourselves for an immediate move, and told that no baggage nor tents will be carried, and that we must depend on our own backs for everything we wish to take. Although we may not start for several days, yet as I should have a great deal to do before setting off, I thought I would write that you might not feel anxious if you did not receive letters from me, after you heard that the Regiment had marched. The Colonel intimated that we might not see our baggage again for a very long time, and even advised us to send away home or to Washington everything we could; the reason for which I cannot make out. He said that Benkt's was to cross to-day and at the same time there was to be an advance at Aquia Creek, showing the plan of Mc. Ellan to be to advance at one time on both flanks of the Rebel Army of the Potomac.

It is thought by some that we are going on some distant service, but I feel perfectly in the dark as to our destination. However, we may not go for some time, and I shall write before we leave if I possibly can. To-day we have had a tremendously strong wind. A great many tents are blown down, and I think

my tent was saved by stays which I put out, and which I should have been unable to make but for the strong cold wind out in my box. I have just received Louisa's letter and three papers. Adjutant Pearson has given me \$11.⁶⁰ and the account of Henry's expenses amounting to \$22.⁵⁰. He received from you.

	\$ 10. ⁰⁰
in gold	<u>15.⁰⁰</u>
	34. ⁰⁰
Paid for Henry	<u>22.⁵⁰</u>
Leaving for me	11. ⁵⁰

Mary tells me he could have come much cheaper without the Adjutant.

I am very much obliged to you for this money, and it may be very useful to me, for the Paymaster does not visit a Regiment if there is any danger, and we may be in actual service very soon.

I have had my tent nicely fastened up with poles, and another bunk put up, all ready for John. If we march I shall send my baggage by him.

I remain

Your affectionate son
Henry Röpes.

Enclosed letter for Mary Ann and picture.

Camp Foster,
Boolesville, February 26th 1862.
A. P. M.

My dear Father.

We left Camp Benton and marched to this Camp yesterday afternoon and are in the tents left by the 15th Mass: who left yesterday to join Banks' Division above us. It is said Banks crossed yesterday. Heavy firing yesterday and last evening, at the river. We are as yet without any baggage but what we carried on our backs, but shall get everything in a day or two, and if we stay long here, we shall be very comfortable as we are right in the village. I hear that a large body of troops are coming up the Canal. No one knows how long we are to be here, and some say that we are to stay as a permanent guard, but the Colonel on leaving Camp Benton, made us a speech and said we were now to take part in the grand advance &c. and that he hoped each would resolve to sustain the honor of the Regiment &c. and he also said to us Officers to reduce our baggage and that we would be obliged to be without transportation except for provisions, all which looks like an active campaign. But still there must be some troops here and perhaps we are to stay. I am delighted to hear that Col. Lee is released and could hardly believe the good news true. I suppose he will return to the Regiment. I will write to

John of our movements. Please excuse this badly written letter,
as I am sitting and writing on an old box, and have as yet no
conveniences. I am perfectly well.

Love to all from

Your affectionate son
Harry Rogers.

Provost Guard House, March 1th 1862
(6 A.M.) Colesville.

My dear Father.

We see by the dating of my letter that I am again on guard, much before my turn, but the Adjutant has not got his accounts in order, and in future I expect to be put on not more often than once in 6 days. John is still here and to-day we intend to go to the river and to visit the old camp (Berlton). The snow and rain we have had has prevented him from going far from the Camp as yet, but he has greatly enjoyed himself among us here, and I hope to keep him for several days. We have had no further signs of our moving. We have no news from Banks as yet. James Codman left for Washington and home yesterday. We must have had a very nice ride. Capt. Bartlett's father arrived last evening and brought the news of Genl. Zander's death. What a loss to the Army! In this division Zander was very highly respected and perfectly trusted in. We are hoping to see the Colonel soon, and then I think we shall move. I have not received letters from you all at home for several days now, and I suppose my letters have also been delayed. I have received papers as usual.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp Foster Pocksville, March 7th 1862.

My dear Father.

On my return from my cattle driving expedition yesterday, I found your letter of March 4th enclosing one from Mother of the 3^d the last page of which was written by Mary Ann. Please thank all. I have written an account of my journey to Middletown. I left with the cattle on Thursday morning. I first saw to the weighing of the cattle at the public scales. We returned by a more road via Jefferson and Adamstown. At the depot at the latter place I was greatly surprised to see John, who I had supposed had left the day before. He had been detained on the road from Pocksville and had passed the night in the very house where I had just dined, but I did not know it, and had only time to say a word or two before he was off in the train.

I rode on with the Cattle about 3 miles to the house of farmer Smith where we found corn &c. for fodder, and where I passed the night. On Friday I rode on to Camp and the cattle followed all safely in about 3 hours.

We have no immediate expectation of leaving this camp, but all day yesterday and during the night before the whole country around Zecoburg was lighted up with great fires and it is said they are

burning all the Camps, barracks, corn stacks &c everything which
could be destroyed preparatory to evacuating. If they do leave I
suppose we shall cross and hold possession. I hear they are
collecting at Winchester and intend to make a stand there. We
shall all know very soon. I am very glad to tell you that I
have found my box at Oldamstown at the Coal Road Office.
Here it was forwarded by the Army Express, and had they notified
me, I could have had it long ago. Where I found it, and sent
it along by a negro who drove a farm wagon, and expect to get it to-day.
The negro took it as far as his master's farm about 2 miles -
from here and our wagons will bring it to me soon. I am busy for
a day or 2 with the Court Martial again, but I shall see
Mother and the others very soon.

Yours affectionate Son
Henry Lopez.

Sunday evening March 9th 1862
Camp Lee, Foolsville.

My dear Father.

We are still at our old Camp Foster now called Camp Lee, but expect to leave by Wednesday. Leesburg and all the country round is evacuated by the Rebels and is occupied by our troops, and we shall probably cross very soon and join our Division under Banks. Beautiful weather now.

In great haste

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Monday morning March 10th 6.30 A.M.

My dear Father.

I open this to say that we are off at last. Order came at midnight to cook 2 days rations and to prepare 2 uncooked, and we are to leave at 8 O'Clock this morning. We go in light marching order and it is said to Harper's Ferry and thence to join Sedgwick and Banks. Perhaps however to Leesburg. I shall no doubt be able to write to you on the march. Love to all.

In great haste

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp Lee, Booleville, Monday even^g
March 10th 7 P.M. 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote you yesterday, and this morning add a few lines to say that we were to start early this morning. As it has rained all day however our departure has been postponed, and now it is about certain that we march to-morrow-morning towards Harper's Ferry, and perhaps get to Point of Rocks to-morrow-evening. Some of our tents and baggage go on to night. I depend on my knapsack and have left my effects viz: 1 trunk - 1 camp stool and one deal box in the care of Mr. Jesse D. Higgins, the principal Storekeeper of Booleville. He does not insure them against war risk, or fire or theft, but agrees to take reasonable care of everything and to hold them subject to my orders. I have marked each as follows: Σ^t Harry Reps, Company K, 20th Regt. of Mass. Volunteers, or William Reps, or 2 Beacon St, Boston, so that they may be sent home, or on to me, as I may afterwards see fit. I have nothing but these trunks and what I take on the march. We expect to be some little time at Harper's Ferry, as our Division (Siquich's formerly Stono's) is rather in the rear of the main Army. I sent home by train a box containing various articles of mine, no longer of use, which I hope will be made use of by any of the family who may want them. Also a bundle for Maria Mason, directed I think to Mrs. Sturgis

Keely.

I wrote you that I found the last box at Adamstown, and sent it on to a Farm near here by a negro slave. I have to-day got the box from the farmer's house, but all the Brandy &c. was gone, probably stolen by the negroes. This is a very great loss to me, as I shall have to depend on others if I need any stimulants. The box contained one pair Army shoes, one paper of coffee, one box solidified Milk, one religious book, large quantity religious tracts and papers, several tracts copy of Putnam's Magazine and a letter from sister Anna. So you see the Gingerbread and Liqueur was all that has been taken. I cannot of course recover anything, as we march to-morrow. When I handed the box to the negro at the station I heard the liquid inside and am thus sure that either he, or my last messenger stole the things. Please thank sister Anna very much for her nice letter, and tell her how it was delayed, and how sorry I am I did not get it so as to answer it long ago. I shall answer it as soon as we get to a place where I can write with any comfort.

I wrote to you that I received \$5.00 from you by letter, and \$11.⁰⁰ by Assistant Paymaster. The Paymaster has not yet been paid, and now, as we are probably soon to be in an enemy's country, he may not come for a long time. The Government owe me \$300, for pay up to March 1st none of which I have received, and I shall be much in want unless I get a supply soon. I dislike very much asking you to advance me any money, but as I have to buy food constantly

for myself and servant, and pay all my own expenses. I have found that without any extravagance, the \$100.00 you gave me together with the \$15.00 advanced since, has been about exhausted. My pay, of course is perfectly sure, and must come very soon, but I deem it prudent to be well supplied and would therefore be very much obliged to you if you would send me as much as may be convenient, and allow the same to stand against me until I receive my pay and am released from all encumbrance on this score. If you would send a \$5.00 bill in your next letter, and as much more as you see fit by Col. Lee, I think this would be the best way. The best form to have money in is gold dollars. I should be very unwilling to ask you for this did I not feel sure that after my first payday I shall be well supplied for the future. I have just received a letter from Mary Ann for which please thank her. I write the last pages to Mother.

Your affectionate Son,
Henry Ropes.

My dear Mother,

I was very sorry to hear from someone that you thought of having copied that picture of me which I first sent you from Camp Barton, and which shows me as I appeared with half grown hair. It makes no worth. Now anybody will tell you how horribly a half grown beard makes any one look, and I am very much astonished to find you desire to keep

a picture of me, not only in my roughest state, but in a state you never
saw me in. I have the very strong objection to having this copied and
sent about as a portrait of me. I said, I now wear nothing but
the moustache, and I have sent you a small picture, which is said by
all to be a most excellent likeness of me as I now appear. I have
no objection to the one taken when I went off, nor to this which shows
me as I am now, but I do not think it unreasonable to object to a
picture which neither represents me as you ever saw me nor as I am
now, but as I was when a long course of neglect of the toilet had brought
me to a state resembling more nearly a barbarian than a civilized being.
So much for this. I have nothing to tell you beside what I have written
to Father. We march to-morrow. I shall write as often as I can,
but do not be anxious on account of lack of letters. I was much interested
in the account of the Colonel's reception. Mrs. Lee sent me a very kind
note by St. Milton. Please thank her, and say that I hope very
soon to find time to answer it. Everybody is longing for the Colonel.
Thank Louisa for her letter. I shall soon answer all, I hope.
Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

20th Regiment Bolivar Heights
Harper's Ferry March 17th 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote to John I think from this place on Saturday, and by mistake dated it Harper's Ferry, Bolivar Heights, where we now are, is about 1 mile from the Rail Road bridge at the Ferry. This town was inhabited principally by the workmen at the Arsenal, and most of the houses have been deserted for several months. We are in a little 2 story brick house of 5 rooms, and are very crowded, but expect to leave by to-morrow certainly. It was said at first that we were to go to Fort Monroe, and thence to Richmond. Now I hear we are to go to Ship Island. Another report is to reinforce Burnside. All wants it seems sure that we shall go first in the direction of Washington. This is a very beautiful place, but of course we are uncomfortably crowded. We bivouacked for 3 nights, and found it very comfortable except when it rained.

I have written to you and the others of the family from Charlestown and hope you receive the letters. I have received nothing from you since we marched from Pottsville but feel sure that letters are safe, as our sister goes for them and expects to keep up to the Regiment. I have sent home my Buffalo, ^{as it is so warm now I do not want it} It could be made an excellent sleigh robe, and I think it will be useful at home. I hope you have re-
ceived

my letter about a supply of money. As the Paymaster has not yet come, every one is in great want. We have to pay Cash for everything here, even to the Commissary. If we go to Washington we can probably get some there from the Government. I hope all the family will continue to write although their letters may be delayed.

I must ask you to excuse this letter and the want of ink, for I have no conveniences whatever here. Love to Mother and all.
Continue to Direct 20th Regiment Washington.

Enclosed letter for sister Anna.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Ropes.

20th Regiment Bolivar Heights
March 21st 1862.

My dear Father.

I have received this afternoon your letter of March 15th enclosing Mother's of the same date, and a letter from Mary Ann also of the 15th. Please thank all. I am very much obliged for the \$5. enclosed in your letter. I assure you I needed it very much. The Government now owe me pay since November 25th 1861 at the rate of \$1200. per annum, so you see my pay is quite enough to support me, and my need of money is solely owing to the delay in paying me. I have borrowed about \$30. in oil from the other Officers here, who until lately were well supplied with money, but now everybody is short, and I want very much to repay my friends. Besides, on a march, it is impossible to get at the Brigade Commissary who alone supplies Officers, and who sells at a very moderate price, and Officers are obliged to buy anywhere, and anything, and at any price. Coffee Sugar and Salt were almost unknown in Virginia when we came, and are only bought of the people at extravagant prices. I feel very much obliged to you for your kindness in offering me so beautifully.

Gold or U. S. Bills are the best money here. The only advantage of gold is that you can get dollars, while the bills are not smaller than Fives. This afternoon we have received orders to prepare two

'days' actions and be ready by daylight to-morrow. I hear we are to go by the Canal boats to Washington, thence to our place in the West. I cannot see why we have delays so long here. I am very much surprised at the astonishing attack on our fleet by the Merrimack. I had supposed that we had nothing to fear by water from the Rebels. I hope this will open our eyes to the necessity of always keeping ahead of our enemies in war innovations, even at a great expense. The English have done so for many years in regard to their steel clad Ships-of-war.

I think, and it is the opinion of many here, that if the Rebels fight at all, they will fight near Richmond, and if so, we shall be as likely to be in the engagement as any other Regiment. We shall be under Mr. Clellan, Sumner, Linn and Lee, Officers everyone of the first in their rank in the country, and I think the prospects of the Regiment for active duty and for success are especially good. Please tell John that the address of the box he took home for Private Murphy of my Company is 'Wm Manning, care Emma Mundy, 100 West Endham Street, Boston'. Please lay my kind wishes to the lack of a seat and a table. I enclose a letter for Mother, and remain

Your affectionate son
Henry Ropes.

Saturday evening March 22^d - 1862.
20th Regiment Bolivar Heights

My dear Father.

I wrote you last evening that we were to go this morning, and so we all thought. The Drum beat at A. Oel. in the morning. The wagons were loaded, and everything made ready, but the final order did not come, and we are still here. It is said very definitely that we go to-morrow, but I believe nothing now.

I was delighted to receive to-day by mail a perfect pile of letters and papers, which I acknowledge as follows: O Advertiser - letter from you dated March 8th, with Post-Script dated 10th, enclosing letter from John dated 9th written to tell me of his safe return. Letter from you dated March 11th enclosing letters (duplicate) on Messrs. Riggs & Co., Washington and telling me of 2 packages of Fifty Dollars each, sent by Captains Lieber and Fremont. Another from you dated 18th enclosing receipt for box, and a letter from Mother dated 12th March. This evening Capt. Lieber arrived and handed me the Fifty gold dollars, and also the other Fifty, which he said Capt. Fremont gave him for me. These most liberal supplies together with the news of the box and the good things therein, all coming at once have quite overwhelmed me, and I feel at a loss how to sufficiently express my thanks. Let me assure you I feel deeply your kindness

in thus ministering to my every want and supplying me with lux-
uries far more than the most dutiful son has a right to expect.

I felt some uneasiness about asking for money, at first not
because I doubted your Kindness and liberality, but from a desire to
let you see that I now support myself, and earn my own money. I
think most young men have this feeling when they begin to be their
own masters and to be independent. Your great Kindness has now entirely
relieved me from all anxiety as to my support.

I shall in future make it a point to leave no debts behind me,
except the necessary one at the Sutters, which is under the regulations
of the Army and which is deducted from my pay at the pay table.

I hope it will not be much trouble to you to send the box brought
by John for Murphy of my company. There is no hurry about it, but it
will be a great benefit to him to have it sent, and he is a good man, and
I should like to oblige him.

I have to-day visited a quite wonderful cave, near here. We
entered through a small door, and proceeded by candle light several hundred
feet right into the mountain. With love to all

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Washington, D.C. March 2nd 1862
Thursday.

My dear Father.

I wrote last from Solimar. We left there at seven O'cl. on last Monday morning March 21st, and after marching a very short distance were halted and waited for several hours. We heard that there had been a fight at Winchester, and we were ordered to be ready to move at once instantly. At about 12 O'cl. we fell in again and marched through Harpers Ferry over the new Rail Road bridge and down the river to Sandy Hook. Here we staid on the slope of a very steep hill overlooking the town till 12 O'cl. at night, when we marched down to the Rail Road at the foot of the hill and got into baggage cars, hastily fitted up with board seats, and of course very uncomfortable, and rode the rest of the night, and until 1 O'cl. on Tuesday when we arrived at Washington. We often stopped and waited, often for several hours and crowded as we were it was very uncomfortable. The 10th Mass. and 7th Mich. preceded us in two trains. We were marched into a large wooden Shed built for troops close to the depot and slept there on the floor. On Wednesday we fell in at about 11 O'cl. A.M. and marched to an open field about 1/2 a mile north of the Capital, where we pitched tents and encamped, and here we are now. We are ordered to be ready on a moment's notice, and expect to go to day. We hear we are to go

by ship down the Estomac where a vast quantity of troops have lately gone from here. There is an immense body of troops all round us here, and the two other Brigades of our Division, Burns' and Foreman's, went off last night so we shall undoubtedly follow very soon. I get an opportunity to visit the City for an hour or two on Tuesday evening, but shall not be able to see the sights at all. Yesterday afternoon Cousin W^m Edman and Lizzie drove up in a carriage to see me. I was delighted of course to see them. They looked very well.

I have got my box and find it contains exactly what you said it did. I am indeed very much obliged for these many luxuries, and shall enjoy them very much. Do not however venture to send me anything more for I shall not get it. We have reduced baggage to the last pound by order, and therefore expect plenty of long marches. Henry Burkmyer was very brutally attacked yesterday by some soldiers of a N. Y. Regiment, and quite cut and bruised, but not injured seriously. I have discovered who some of the men were and shall take the first opportunity to complain of them and have them arrested. Their Regiment left in the night and I could do nothing this morning. Do not be anxious if you do not get letters from me regularly in future, as we may be on shipboard.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

On board Steamer "Catskill" below
Washington, March 28th 1862 A.P.M.

My dear Father.

I wrote you from our Camp at Washington yesterday. I was Officer of the Guard then, and was ordered to stay till all the wagons were loaded at the Camp, and then to bring on all the stragglers. The Regiment left the Camp at about 11 in the afternoon with the wagons which were to return to get another load. As this was our last day in a large city, an unusually large number of the men got away and were brought back drunk, so that I had a very hard duty. On account of the very great delay in getting the Regiment aboard the Steamer, the wagons did not return until midnight. Then everything was loaded up, and I marched down, not without a great deal of trouble from the drunken prisoners. However at about 5 O'clk A.M. we got down to the river, and then had to wait till 7 O'clk. before all the baggage was put on board. At last we got all safely a board, and I was relieved from my very arduous guard duty. There was still a great deal of delay, in getting ready places for horses &c. and it was a quarter past 3 P.M. when we finally started from the wharf. We are now steaming down the river, and in about an hour I expect to get a view of Mount Vernon. The Captain tells me the house can be seen from the boat.

I do not know whether I distinctly acknowledged the receipt—

through Capt. Threlkett of your letter in regard to me. The first part
a capital letter & before we arrived at El Estero. I am sure you
were so troubled because of my want of money. I was at no time in
absolute need, for I borrowed money of my friends, but now all are so
short, that I was very glad to be able to pay my debts and to relieve some
of my suffering companions a little. If, when I get to Fort Monroe
where we are now going, I have reason to think that I shall be unable
to get money for a long time, I shall draw the Fifty Dollars, to carry in
case of need. I hope you were at no trouble to get gold for me. U.S.
notes pass everywhere here, on both sides of the river, just as well. The
only trouble is that there are now but \$5. bills. I am indeed very much
obliged for this timely supply, and hardly see what I should have done
without it. I am perfectly well and comfortable.

Your affectionate son,
Henry Lopez.

Camp 20th near Hampton, Va.
April 1st 1862.

My dear Father

I wrote to you and to John from on board the Steamer 'Cato Kill' on Sunday last. We arrived safely at Fort Monroe on Sunday evening, and found there an immense fleet of transports and war vessels, so that in every direction the lights were as thick as stars on a clear night. During the night our Captain left the Ship without a watch and she drew her anchor and drifted ashore, and into a schooner striking near the stern and breaking in part of the saloon. It was dark and there was a great commotion for a few moments, none knowing what had happened, but soon order was restored and we got off, and nobody was hurt. Our boat was an old North river Craft, utterly unfit for the voyage, and especially so when crowded with 300 men, horse boxes &c. The Captain was a cool, collected fellow, and chose every body and everything, and neglected his duties. I think we were very fortunate in meeting with no serious mishap. On Monday morning we hauled into the wharf at the Fort but the number of Transports was so great and the quantity of troops so immense that we could not land there and therefore proceeded to Hampton a very pretty sail through the harbor. I had a most excellent view of the Monitor lying with steam up, ready for anything. She is the most insignificant looking affair I ever saw, and I was very much astonished to see

so small a craft. You have no doubt seen pictures of her. To look at her one would laugh at the idea of her fighting the Merrimac. The tower is very low, not up to the deck of a small ship.

We landed at Hampton, and soon marched $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the Great Bethel road to this Camp where we now are encamped, and where I suppose we shall wait till the rest of the Army comes, and the fleet is ready, and then we shall march on Yorktown and thence to Richmond. This is probably the destination of this Army. There is an immense Army here now, with the entire Regular reserve which has been long collecting at Washington. It is a very flat Country, and the troops are camped close together. It is warm and pleasant, and the trees are already budding. I have sent for my trunk from Falconville by Adams' Express as I need a change of clothing.

As we may be now at any time called upon to march, I have determined to draw 'Fifty Dollars' on Messrs. Riggs & Co. as soon as possible so as to be provided in case I should come short in an enemy's country. I think I can do this easily through the Quartermaster.

There seems to be no doubt that a vast army is to collect here for the great final attack on the Rebel power. There must be at least 100,000 men here now, and more are coming all the time. Almost all the Regular Artillery is now here. I suppose it will take a week or so to organize, and then we shall march on Yorktown 13 miles. After that city is reduced or evacuated, we shall proceed to Richmond.

perhaps co-operating with an Elm, from Washington and with Burdick.
I think letters had better be directed to Hampton, Va. near Fort Monroe
via Washington, D. C. but probably the old direction will answer.

I have heard that Col. Lee arrived in Washington the afternoon
we sailed, but have not heard whether his family were with him.

All well, love to Mother and all. Shall write more as soon as
I get a tent and can get up something for a table.

Your Affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment, 4 miles beyond
Big Bethel. Va. April 3^d (6th) 1862. Sunday.

My dear Father.

I have just received Mother's and John's letters of April 1st.
We marched from our Camp at Hampton on Thursday morning and
passed through Little and Big Bethel and bivouacked just beyond
Big Bethel. Here we found very extensive earthworks and barracks,
just deserted by the Rebels. A vast quantity of troops were marching
to our Camp all the night and after we had marched about 6 miles we
made a long halt; while we were lying and resting by the roadside, a
large number of Officers rode by, and just after they passed I found
that it was Mc. Clellan and Staff. I was very sorry we did not
recognize and cheer him. Yesterday we marched on to this place, and I
have seen Mc. Clellan very plainly. He is a fine open looking man,
with a fresh complexion and sandy hair and only in the shape of his face
resembling the pictures which make him look like a dark, severe
man.

We have been here all day, and do not know when we shall
advance but I hear the Rebels have fallen back somewhat. Our
Army here is several times as large as their force, and we have an
immense train of Artillery so I suppose they will have no hope in
resistance. Although our Army is so large that probably only a

part will be engaged with the enemy, yet I feel of course that ours
may be the attacking party. All is uncertain in war, but I
hope you will not let your fears make you too anxious. Remember
that I trust I am prepared for any event and that I feel happy in
leaving all in God's hands.

Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near
Yorktown, Va. April 11th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have to acknowledge several letters from you including one by Col. See and one from Mother of the date (I think) of April 1st. I have written fully to John of the skirmish of last Monday. I have since learnt that the left flank Company of our Regiment (Capt. William) which that day was under Herbert M. Cook was deployed on the road when the rest of the Regiment entered the woods, and Herbert was ordered by Gen. Dana to resist an expected attack of Cavalry. When it was decided not to assault the works and we returned to the road, Herbert formed the rear-guard, and before long came upon the poor fellow of the 10th who was mortally wounded and had been left on a litter with 8 men to carry him back. These men were exhausted, it was pouring with rain, and very dark, and they were on the point of leaving him, but Herbert took him in charge, and his men carried the poor fellow the whole way back. Herbert was thus detained an hour and his men had a very tiresome time indeed. They lost the Regiment and had to make their own way back in the darkness and mud. The poor fellow died just as they got him back. The 10th were very wrong in thus leaving a comrade. The Doctor should certainly have stood.

A part of one of their Company left the field without orders and were sent back by the General, so the 19th have little to boast of for that day.

I hear we shall be unable to move for several days. I hear the Merrimack and Monitor are engaged to-day. Result unknown.

I have just heard of our glorious victory in the West. It seems as if it only needed a great defeat here, to destroy the Rebel cause.

I enclose a letter for Mother. Shall hope to write again soon.

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp 20th Regiment before York-
town, Va. April 19th 1862.

My dear Father.

I last wrote home from our Camp "near Yorktown, Va." It had been named "Camp Winfield Scott". On Wednesday last 300 of our Regiment were ordered out to work on the roads, and our Company among them. While we were just finishing a rough bridge over a stream, we saw the head of a column of Soldiers come up the road, and soon we recognized our own Brigade. They kept passing on for about 4 hours, and among them the rest of our Regiment. Our whole Division passed on except Cavalry, and all the Generals, even Sumner. After they had passed we finished our work and marched back to our new selected Camp. After getting some supper we packed up, and followed our Regiment. It was very dark, but we marched only a short distance, and found the Army bivouacking in the woods. The next morning we moved out into an open place and encamped. During the night there was a very sharp firing of artillery in the advance. The Camp was aroused and the whole Brigade formed under arms. Soon the firing slackened, and we were dismissed, but ordered to remain with arms ready and not undress, as further alarms roused us.

We heard in the morning that the Rebels made a sortie.

from their works and were repulsed by the 2^d Vermont. Every day one Brigade does picket duty in front of our Division, and yesterday was our turn. We were close to the enemy, and there was almost constant firing on both sides. One man of Company B. C. was severely wounded in the side by a musket ball. There was a great deal of firing in the night, but the woods are very thick and it is hard to see. I went down and could see the Rebel works and tents very plainly. Our pickets are no near them as from our house to Charles Street, and if anybody shows himself on either side, he is shot at. We hide behind trees. Things do not seem to move on very fast here, but I suppose it will all go well. Every one is anxious for an immediate attack and all hate this constant picket-fighting.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

All well.

April 22^d

Henry Lopes.

Camp 20th Regiment before
Yorktown, Va. April 27th Friday 1862.

My dear Father.

I received yesterday your letter of the 10th enclosing a receipt of Adams' Express Co. for the box, also a letter from Mother, of the 18th, the last page written by Louisa and a letter from Mary Ann of same date. This morning I received a letter from John of April 21st. I have also received 3 newspapers. Please thank all. I feel very much obliged to you for sending me the box. I am sure I never can repay the kindness you have shown me in so often supplying my wants, and furnishing me so often with so many comforts and luxuries. There is not an Officer in the Regiment who has received one half the presents from home I have, and I feel it quite impossible for me to express my gratitude.

In the midst of a wilderness like this, you can hardly imagine the value one places upon the things which we take as a matter of course at home. I assure you I shall use the contents of the box with the greatest care, and I know it will contribute very much to my comfort.

We have this morning returned from another day of picket duty, and I grieve to say that yesterday our Regiment met with the greatest loss it could possibly sustain. Capt. Bartlett

was shot in the knee, and has lost his leg. He has been sent to Ship Point, thence to go to Washington. Our Company was yesterday placed in reserve, close to the 2^d Flowitzes I have before mentioned, in my letters, and we were not very near the enemy. Capt. Bartlett came up in command of the Regiment. Col. Taft remaining in camp, and after the different companies had taken their posts, he went to the advanced posts and was crouching down examining the enemy's works with a glass, when a ball, fired from a rifle pit by a Rebel sharpshooter struck his knee and shattered the bones down to the middle of the calf. He was brought up on a stretcher, and taken to a small house near our camp where the Surgeons, after a short consultation, decided on immediate amputation above the knee. He was placed under chloroform, and the operation was performed by Dr. Hayward. The last accounts were that he was quite comfortable. This of course ends the military career of one of the most promising young men in the Army. He occupied a very high place, and would no doubt have won a name in the coming campaign. He was the right hand man of the Regiment and I do not see who can fill his place. Capt. Decher, the next in rank, is an older man and a most excellent Officer, and probably the best educated military man in the Regiment, but he is a German, and speaks English very imperfectly. In case of active service the Regiment will be in great need of Officers, and

unless the Colonel returns very soon, we shall be very badly off indeed.

We go on picket every 3 days. The last time we were on, our Company had the exposed post, and I remember that Capt. Bartlett came up and told me he wished to visit the posts. I went with him, and when we were in the most exposed part, where a good view can be got of the enemy's works, I told him of the rifle pit we had discovered, and cautioned him to pass without stopping - from tree to tree - that we might not give the enemy's sharpshooters a mark. We staid some time there, and saw the men in the rifle pit, and the stumps and logs piled round to deceive our men, and while there the Captain told me he hated this picket work, and felt sure he should some time be shot while on picket. He said he would much rather meet the enemy in open fight. The very next time we came on picket, he was shot in this very place. I think it a very remarkable coincidence. The whole Regiment feels his loss deeply.

We seem to be settled down in this place. The Captain and I have now got a tent, and have had benches put up of boughs, and are quite comfortable, and protected from the weather. To-day is cold and rainy, but a few days ago the heat was oppressive. I shall never again complain of the great changes of weather at home. It is worse here. I cannot but think that Mr. Tellan is waiting for other movements before he attacks these works. We of course see only a small part of the line, and know almost nothing of what

goes on elsewhere. There is no danger of our being surprised, as I see Genl. Grant was at Corinth. The picket duty is carried on with the very greatest regularity and care.

Henry desires me to give you his respects. He has received his letter.

Yours ever affectionate Son
Henry Ropes.

Enclosed letter for Mother.

Camp Winfield Scott before Yorktown.
Va., May 1st 1862.

My dear Father.

I have no letter from you to acknowledge, but this morning I received a letter from Mary Ann dated April 27th for which please thank her.

Yesterday the Regiment was paid off up to March 1st 1862. I received pay from the date of commission November 20th 1861 to March 1st 1862, amounting to \$333.55. I have still got about \$40.00 of the \$50.00 I drew from Messrs. Riggs & Co. and as we shall probably be paid up to May 1st 1862 in 3 or 4 weeks, I have sent home to you \$200.00. I enclose a receipt for the amount signed by Mr. Tolson, which you will please present to the Mayor. I am very glad thus to be able to pay the sum you have been so kind as to advance. These are as follows:

Feb 2 nd 11 th	in letter	5. "
24 th	by Adjutant Peirson	11.50
" "	" Henry's Expenses	22.50
" "	" Do. wages, 1 month	15. "
March 16 th	in letter	5. "
" 22	by Capt. Dreher	100. "
April 6 th	" draft Riggs & Co.	50. "
		<hr/>
		\$ 200. "

These are all I have charged. Will you please therefore deduct this amount from the \$280.00 and hand the balance \$71.00 to John. I requested him to keep an account of the sums expended for me to clothes &c. &c. at various times, and I think the \$71.00 more than enough to pay for these.

Should there be \$25.00 left after deducting the amount John takes, I wish to have a silver hunter watch bought with it and sent to me. I find a watch with an exposed crystal a very great trouble. One is very apt to break a crystal ^{by stepping in one's clothes} on the ground, and when the crystal is broken, it is perhaps a month before you can send it anywhere to be replaced. Then, besides, a watch which you can depend on is a necessity here, and mine is not at all trustworthy. I find most of the Officers have got plain silver hunter watches, and I wish you would get one for me not to cost more than \$25.00. I do not care in the least how large or ugly a watch it is. The only things required are that it should be a good time-keeper, and be a hunter. That is all. I would be very glad if you would buy such a watch and send it to me by Adams' Express.

I have just got back from another day's picket. We were our reserve. We are used to this now and our men do not fire at all. Genl. Dana came up and I went with him along the line of outer posts and showed him what we could see of the enemy &c.

I was familiar with the ground as I was there the time before. I have not yet heard whether New Orleans is really taken. I have

to-day received a letter from Martha.

Love to Mother and the rest of the family. I am perfectly well.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Rogers

Camp above West Point, York
River, Va. May 6th 1862 A.M.

My dear Father.

You have no doubt all this rejoiced over our great success. We have been so hurried on in pursuit that I have not been able till now to write, and tell you what we have seen and done.

We were rejoiced on Friday to hear of the exchange of Col. See, the Major and his brother the Doctor, and on Friday evening they arrived in camp. The Colonel was very cordial to me and gave me your letter of the 30th enclosing one from Ziggy of the 1st, one from John of the 30th, and one from Mother. Sammie is well. He looks very well indeed.

On Saturday the 3^d we went on picket, our company being under my command, as the Captain was Officer of the day. We were on the reserve with the Colonel. There was a good deal of firing during the day and at 3 A.M. of Sunday the 4th we were all turned out under arms, as the Rebels fired smartly for half an hour or so. We waited till 7 O'clk, the usual time for us to be relieved, and then formed. As the 1st Company was on picket, our Company was first in line. Just at 7 O'clk our Aide-de-Camp rode up at a gallop and ordered the Colonel instantly to advance on the enemy's works as they had evacuated. Col. See gave the order

and we entered the woods in front, and came out on the open swamp
right in front of the extensive works of the Rebels. We could see
a few signal men on a part of the works, and no guns or flags
left. The Colonel led the way, then the pioneers, then the Regiment.
Our company of course first. We waded through the swamp and by
bridges left by the Rebels we crossed 2 very deep and broad ditches
full of water, and mounted the principal redoubt. The Colonel instantly
shouted for the flag, and in a few moments it waved the 1st
U.S. flag over the Rebel works at Yorktown. The Soldiers
gave tremendous cheers, and it was altogether a glorious occasion.
We have since marched to Yorktown, and were out all through
a terribly rainy night and embarked in Steamers and this morning
disembarked here and are only waiting for the rest of the troops
to begin our advance, perhaps on Richmond. I am perfectly well.
Shall write more fully soon. I suppose we have headed them off
now.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near
Cumberland, Va. May 17th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have received no letters from home since those by Col. See and Lt. Perry which I have answered. We have had a very irregular mail of course, but I have received 2 newspapers, and I hope the next mail will bring me some letters.

We left our Camp above West Point on the morning of the 15th, and in a heavy rain and over an awful road we made a forced march to this place. There was no particular need of haste as far as I can learn but they marched us almost without a halt over a road at times ankle deep in slippery mud, during a heavy rain, and at a speed which forced 1/2 of our Brigade to drop out of the ranks from fatigue. I did not expect a long march and had loaded my knapsack quite heavily, and I found it the most trying march I ever endured. All our Sergeants but one fell out, and we came into Camp with only about 120 men, and our Company stood ^{it} as well as the rest, and our Regiment much better than the other regiments of the Brigade. We finally halted and filed into the woods at the side of the road and our tired men put up what shelter they could against the rain and lay down for the night.

The next day we dried off and are now quite rested. I hear

our pickets are beyond New Kent Court House. We get little news till we see the papers and you probably know much more of our probable movements than we do.

Col. See thinks we shall enter Richmond without a battle and I hear that the Colonel has applied for the Provost Marshalship of Richmond, and that therefore we are likely to spend some time there. I hope this is so, for a rest and an opportunity to get up our baggage &c. would be very pleasant.

It would be much better to spend some months in Richmond than in some out of the way place, or in some more Southern and richly positioned.

I enclose a letter for Louisa. I am perfectly well as usual.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near Bottoms
Bridge, Va. May 20th Sunday 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote yesterday to John and Mary Ann. There is no news to-day, only rumoured reports of the evacuation of Richmond. We have moved about 21 miles from our last camp to this one, but I date both "Near Bottoms Bridge" because there is no name to either place, that I have heard of. Our marching march of 15 miles or so on Friday was not very tiresome as we had no knapsacks to carry. We marched through beautiful woods, and frequently stopped at fine springs of water.

This is a fine farming country, and there is a great deal of wheat growing. We passed an old brick church surrounded by trees called "Lords Church", and near this we came upon such a fine large country mansion in the middle of a very extensive farm. Troops were camped all over the cleared land.

It is as hot here as we have it in June or July, and to-day is very pleasant. Some wild strawberries are found in the woods.

I am very glad you have settled to go to Swampscott and are to have such very pleasant society. The Rebellion seems now to be collapsing like a burst bladder, and it is possible that we may be discharged before Autumn. It seems to me that there will be very little opposition made to the advance of the Army in any direction.

Very likely the Army will be reduced one third or one half as soon as Richmond is taken, and of course it is impossible to say what Regiments will be kept, and what sent back.

However, it may be that the Rebels will risk a great battle. In that case, Mr. Clellan will, I am sure, risk nothing but wait till he has collected an overpowering force. As anti-rat I think our campaigning is about over, and if successful (of which I have no doubt) we shall be settled down in some camp which we shall not leave till we return to Washington. We have just heard of the very valuable capture of Charleston S. C.

My last letter was from Mary Ann, and as she said nothing about you all at home, I suppose all are well. I am perfectly well and we are now in a healthy place on a hill, near to a very pretty brook and not far from a fine lake.

We expect to move on to-morrow. Just before yesterday there was some Artillery firing in the advance.

Love to Mother and all.

Yours affectionate son
Henry Lopes.

Camp near Bottoms Bridge,
Va. May 26th 1862.

My dear Father.

I enclose a letter for Frank. I am sorry I had no post paper, but I have written this all over and quite closely.

Mother mentioned that a certain W^m J. Temple, 2^d Mass. Regiment, was reported wounded. I saw it in the paper and cannot think it was my friend and class mate, for he was in the 1st Regulares. Please ask John to enquire about it and let me know. I have no news to tell you. We are ordered to be ready to march, and expect to go into Richmond day after to-morrow, with or without a battle, as the Rebels may decide. Col. Lee says we have here 100,000 men and 120 pieces of Artillery effective for action now. I think this force will be irresistible. I am well. Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Harry.

Camp 2^d Regiment
May 30th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have received your letter of May 22^d & 23^d enclosing Mother's, and the key of the valise and the receipt for the same. I am very much obliged to you for sending the valise and for getting the clothes &c. I hope to get it very soon. We are still at this camp from which I last wrote and I do not know when we shall leave it. Yesterday we returned from an advanced movement. We were marched at miles on Wednesday morning very early and halted in a field with the rest of the Division. We left not knowing where we were going and expecting an engagement, for the Colonel said it looked more like it that day than ever before. There was hardly a gun fired however and we remained till night in the same place, expecting every moment the order to move. At 3 P.M. we began to march back, as we had left everything at the Camp, but before we had gone a mile the order was countermanded and we marched back again and lay down without blankets or any covering or shelter. Some blankets were however brought for the men, and my man Merry finding I did not return marching up with blankets and overcoat and a pot of your nice chocolate and I was perfectly comfortable for the night. We passed the next day in the same place, and just

at the cool of the afternoon marched back to our old Camp where we now are.

The Captain's servant left to follow us long before Harry and lost his way and got away up to Butler's Division and only got back last night. He heard all about the brilliant action there and converse with the Rebel prisoners. He saw some North Carolinians and they told him freely that the whole Rebel Army was dreadfully disheartened and would not fight at Richmond. They say they are glad to be taken prisoners and fully believe the Rebellion is over. They want to go home, and there is no other way but by becoming loyal. The Officers and men were shockingly clothed and ragged.

We were all astonished at the news from Banks, but do not consider it very important, and were rather amused at the Home Guard demonstrations. There is a rumor to-day that we shall go to Harper's Ferry, but I place no reliance on the report. I should indeed be very glad not to get to Richmond now. Mc. Clellan seems to be edging over to the North slowly. We are all disgusted with Governor Chiswell's letter and foolish and bombastic manner. There are men enough here to take Richmond and destroy Jackson too.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp near Fair Oaks Station, Va.
A. B. M. Tuesday June 3^d 1862.

My dear Father.

I take the first opportunity to inform you of my safety, that a kind Providence has mercifully preserved me in battle, and above all that I was enabled to do my duty there.

On Saturday last, June 3rd, we had not the slightest idea of danger being near till about noon when very heavy firing broke out from the woods West of us and at one time approached very near. We were ordered under arms, but I had no particular expectation of a battle, for we have been often called out in the same way before. The firing ceased, and we heard a report that Eads had been repulsed, but we did not know what to believe. At about 2 P.M. orders came to fall in with one day's rations and we marched from Camp, and crossed the Chickahominy on the log bridge built by the Mich. Regt. We came out on a low meadow where our Artillery was stuck in the mud. The 10th Mass. was on picket behind us, the 5th Pennsylvania we left here, and the 7th Mich. and we pushed on alone. After passing the meadow we ascended a small hill and found the country dry and hilly in front. Soon we halted, loaded and primed and then marched on again. In a few moments we were again ahead, and we pushed on rapidly, crossed a stream knee deep and took the double quick.

for musketry and artillery were now heard in front, rapidly increasing. We drove forward out of breath and very hot, saw the smoke rising over the trees, and soon the road turned from along the edge of the woods, and we saw at the farther end of a large field our Artillery firing with the greatest rapidity, the Infantry forming, all hid in smoke. We again took the double cut - step and ran through deep mud and pools of water toward the battle. The whole field in the rear of the line of firing was covered with dead; and wounded men were coming in in great numbers, some walking, some limping, some carried on stretchers and blankets, many with shattered limbs exposed and dripping with blood. In a moment we entered the fire. The noise was terrific, the balls whistled by us and the shells exploded over us and by our side; the whole scene dark with smoke and lit up by the streams of fire from our battery and from our Infantry in line on each side. We were carried to the left and formed in line and then marched by the left flank and advanced to the front and opened fire. Our men behaved with the greatest steadiness and stood up and fired and did exactly what they were told. The incessant confusion was very great, and it was as much as all the Officers could do to give the Command and see to the men. We changed position 2 or 3 times under a hot fire. Comd'g and Chase of my company fell not 2 feet from me. The shell and balls seemed all round us, and yet few seemed to fall. We kept up this heavy firing for some time.

when the enemy came out of the woods in front and made a grand
attack on the battery. They were met by grape and canister
and a tremendous fire of the Infantry. They rallied and fell back.
Some Regiment charged on them: the whole Rebel line was now in
front of us, and Genl. Sumner ordered our whole line to advance.
We rushed on with tremendous cheers, the whole together at a charge.
The Rebels did not wait for the bayonets but broke and fled. Our
Regiment came over a newly ploughed field and sank to the knee.
We drove them to the edge of the woods and opened a tremendous fire
for a few moments, and then

June 21st 1862.

I was forced to stop suddenly yesterday. for our Company went to occupy a house and yard in advance of our Regiment, and I expected to finish there, but the enemy appeared unexpectedly and opened fire on us and wounded 2 men of Company H and I was finally occupied till this morning. I will continue my letter where I left it off.

We fired into the woods and then charged and drove them before us. We were then ordered back and by the left flank and again charged the Rebels in a field on the left where they had rallied. We drove them and bedded in the middle of the field and gave a final volley. It was then dark. We staid there that night. Ground covered with their killed and wounded. We took many prisoners. I will write more fully when I have more time.

On Sunday they attacked us tremendously. We were not in the heat of it and only lost one man.

Fighting more or less all the time till now. No signs of the Rebels to-day. All Officers well and anxious. Colonel well, but very busy. He desires me to ask you to send word to his family. I am on picket to-day. The Regiment will probably soon be relieved. Our total loss 30. My Company suffered most in the battle. Love to Mother and all. Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment 1 mile below
Fair Oaks, Va. Wednesday, June 11th 1862.

My dear Father.

We have just been withdrawn from the extreme advance and marched back one mile on the Rail Road and are camped here in comparative ease and comfort after 10 days of the hardest work soldiers can endure. I have just bathed and changed my underclothes and feel like another man. For 10 days we have not taken off equipments or boots or even cap, except for an hour or two, and have never been a moment sure of not having to spring to arms the next. We have been up night after night, and for 3 nights only laid down in the mud and snatched a few hours rest. We have been soaked through and had to dry off when it cleared off and the sun came out, and have been every day within range of the enemy and had musket balls and round shot and shell thrown at us every day. But of course, man cannot long stand such exposure and Genl. Sumner said that Dana's Brigade had done its full share, and therefore we are ordered to the rear, and our place is supplied by a fresh Brigade. Yesterday the enemy opened on us and threw shell very close to us and over us but hit no one. Our lines are now at least $3\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in advance of the position we took up on the night of the battle and we have thrown up long lines of earthworks and cut down the forest

in front for $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile. The enemy seek to intercept us by threatening shells, but do not often get the range. As yet we rarely reply. Mr. Clellan seems to be establishing a powerful base of operations and strong line of earthworks on which the Army could fall back if the necessity should come. I hear that Mr. Lowell is advancing, that Sumner has joined us on the left, that a mortar fleet to operate against Fort Darling is at Norfolk, and that Mr. Clellan thus hopes to take them all round at once and capture or annihilate them. Of course it is hard to tell true reports from false, but I have no doubt Mr. Clellan will make sure work at the last. I do not know whether we shall return to the advance in a week or so or not, but incline to think we shall be reserved for another desperate crisis. Sumner, Sedgwick, Dana, and especially the 20th Regiment have won a great name by the last 10 days work.

Please to thank Louisa for her and Lizzie's kind letters. So Lizzie is really gone to England. Please to give her my love when next you write. Also to Sister Mary and thank her for her letter, and say I shall answer it soon I hope. I am perfectly well, and I think I stood the exposure of late remarkably well. All our friends here are well. The Colonel looks as well as ever, and I think better than he used to before he came to the war. He enjoys a military life, and is very active and vigilant and up long before daybreak, and always on hand at the least alarm.

You must not believe the newspaper accounts of the battle &c. Wait for the Official reports of Sumner, Sedgwick and Dana. I have received Mother's and your letters and am very sorry you were made so anxious, yet it could not be helped. A good many of our men are knocked up by our late exposures, but on the whole the health of the Regiment is good. Please give my love to Mother and all. Have you ever received the \$280.00 I sent? I think you have not yet acknowledged its receipt. I sent to John by Mr. Wilkins of this Regiment a small parcel which I hope he received safely. Please remind John to send me if possible some reading matter by mail. I want something to read very much. I hope to get my valise by the Rail Road very soon now.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Ropes.

Evidently 2nd pag

enclosing Sister Mary's letter.

You seem to overestimate the battle of Sunday compared with that of Wednesday the 17th. Sunday's fight was a decided victory, but the battle of the 1st was the greatest battle ever fought on this continent and the loss fearful. Our Corps of about 15000 men lost between 5000 and 6000, our Division more in proportion and our Brigade the most of any in the Division although it is the smallest. Col. Lee says except at Ball's Bluff he never was under such a fire. It seems to me an awful responsibility rests somewhere. The 2^d and 3^d lines were advanced under the heaviest fire for no purpose, and the left flank left entirely exposed. Had the 2^d line covered the left, the 2^d was placed on the open field and ordered to lie down and the first kept the enemy at bay by skirmishers till a battery could have been brought to bear on the enemy's position. I think things might have resulted differently, and live saved.

However it is easy to criticise after all is over.

Col. Lee sends his respects.

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp Lincoln June 24th 1862.

My dear Father.

I believe I have no letter from you to acknowledge, but as I have got no letters for 2 days I expect some by the mail to-day, and very likely I shall receive one from you.

Yesterday we were paid off up to May 1st 1862, two months. My pay was \$212.⁰⁰ and I send home of this \$110.⁰⁰. I enclose the receipt by which you can draw the money as you did before, at the Mayor's Office.

I have not yet received from John an account of my expenses, and therefore do not know whether the whole or more or less is required to meet my expenses, but should any balance remain in my favor, I beg you will credit it to me.

I know that my valise and its contents must have been quite expensive.

Yesterday I was on a fatigue party at the fortifications in front. Our forts are very extensive and the batteries that are being moved up very formidable. A battery of Siege Howitzers. Tremendous of size, throwing a 13" shell has just arrived.

Yesterday afternoon there came a report that Richmond was being evacuated, and so our pickets were thrown forward and the woods shelled in front of them as they advanced, and a small

to a great man was sent forward from Hooker's Division. But they soon returned and reported the enemy still in force in his old position. However, these constant reports of evacuation mean something, and as at Yorktown very likely precede the event. The Rebels have been very quiet lately, and for no doubt now quite settled the fact in their own minds that they cannot drive Mc. Ellan off.

The key tied on the valise was so nicely tucked away that Henry at first did not observe it.

Please tell Mother that I have begun to wear the Undershirts she sent out, although I did not expect to, and find them very comfortable.

We had another terrible thunder storm last night. They are very frequent here, but are rarely accompanied with wind.

To-day is cooler and cloudy.

Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp Lincoln June 26th 1862.
My dear Father.

I have been at the works in front with a working party two days, and have been unable to write in answer to your kind letters before.

I now acknowledge two from you dated 10th and 20th, and one received yesterday of the 10th enclosing receipt for a box.

I have also received one from Mother of the 19th and one from Mary Ann 21st giving a very interesting account of Class Day.

In regard to my degree at College I believe I have written that Herbert Mason and I have sent in a joint petition to the Faculty and written a joint letter to Prof. Lovering, requesting him to present it. This we did before we knew that you and Mr. Mason had done anything for us.

I cannot think they will refuse us, as they have often given degrees to Students who have been absent longer than we, for sickness.

It is very kind indeed of you and Mother to send me another box so soon after my valise. I feel that I cannot thank you enough. If we stay here, I shall undoubtedly get it without any delay.

I must close, for I have little time. It is now 5 P.M.

S.M. and we go over a working party at 1/2 past 6.

Yesterday our entire left advanced, driving the enemy. Quite a severe battle. Our Regiment not engaged of course. I was in a redoubt in the front and we opened for about 2 hours with O'Connell, Gault, Mc. Clellan, Sumner, Sedgwick, Deva, Meagher & Smith, French, and others were at our redoubt, a very central place.

I suppose we have occupied the enemy's advanced works. Firing in the night quite heavy, also this morning. Our central works are very strong.

All well. Love to mother and all.

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Lincoln June 27th 1862.

My dear Father.

I enclose a letter for Mary Ann.

We had the Regiment out yesterday evening to cheer at the good news of Sherman's victorious advance on the right. I hope it is as good as our report of it was.

We may move at any time. Considerable firing to day. I am by the receipt of the valise you sent that \$1.⁰⁰ was paid for freight. But the Agent at White House charged Henry \$2.²⁵ in addition for freight. Can this be right? I have written to the Agent for an explanation, but he has not answered my letter yet. I think \$3.²⁵ a very extravagant freight. My box you sent was charged no additional freight.

The last box which you have so kindly sent has not yet come. I expect it will now. Its contents will be very useful and contribute much to my health and enjoyment.

Thank you for the books by mail (Hulifax &c.). I am perfectly well. Weather warm and fine. Love to Mother and all from -

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp near landing on James River
15. July 5th 1862.

My dear Father.

Again I have been preserved from all harm amid the greatest danger, to which those I have so lately passed through seem nothing.

I feel that I can never be thankful enough for my preservation, for I am perfectly untouched although about one half of ^{the} our company are gone. We have fought 11 regular battles and covered the retreat the whole way. We have really marched 3 successive nights and fought 3 successive days.

Now, however, we are encamped some distance to the rear, and fresh troops which are pouring up from the river are in the advance. I was fortunate enough to save my valise and a small box of food &c. but my Kuapack was left behind, the wagons being overloaded. In this however I only lost a shirt, pair drawers, blanket and a few books. What most I regret was the loss of the little Prayer book given me by Mother just before I left, and which I have always had by me. Had I had the least reason to suppose we were going to leave I could have so packed my valise as to leave nothing useful behind; but I left the camp Friday expecting to be back by night, and I never returned to it. I will

not attempt to describe all I have seen now, for I have not time. All I can say is that of the 11 batts. the 2nd "Alabama" was the one in which we met with so heavy a loss.

We marched over an open field exposed to a heavy fire of Artillery and musketry killing 3 times as many, and drove the enemy before us and passed beyond a battery of ours which had been taken and retaken once already. On the open field my Company lost nearly a third of their number. A shell burst right among us. One shell dashed toward Holmes' head in pieces and splattered the brains and bits of flesh all about, pieces remaining stuck to the faces of the men. Another (or a ball) took off Corporal Dampson's leg above the knee knocking it far away. Another tore away the whole breast and bowels of Sergeant Compass. Many were wounded beside these. All this was while we steadily advanced over a wide field and before a gun was fired by us.

Still the Regiment never faltered an inch. It was, nothing but "close up" "guide left" as the line pressed steadily forward. Our Company lost most by the shell &c. When we got to the abandoned battery the sight was indeed awful. Corpses and men were spread over the ground torn to pieces in every way; some alive and gasping and crying out. We passed right on beyond the battery to support our own troops who were rapidly being driven out of the woods in front. They all fell behind us but did not reform well. J. H. ,

were ordered to fall back to the woods. The enemy came out on us. Our Brigade withstood them. Then the Michigan ^{2nd} came way before the close fire, and we were soon the only Regiment left, the enemy pressing on in large numbers. The order was given "about face" "forward march". So we fell back through the woods, twice halting, facing to the front and delivering fire. The enemy pressed yelling on firing and soon opened with shell. It was quite dark in the underbrush and dense smoke, so many of the men got separated, and although Colonel Palfrey (Col. Lee was in command of the Brigade) led the way to the right to a road there many of the men lost their way and did not find us in the darkness and confusion. We formed on the road, sadly diminished in numbers, and very soon Meagher's and other troops passed up farther to our right, and I understand drove back the enemy, captured again one abandoned battery, and also 2 guns from the Rebels.

We fell back to the road near the position from which we started and here I learned our loss. Col. Lowell is gone, shot like Putnam in the bowels. Fatten Abbott and Killee are wounded. Col. Palfrey slightly, a mere scratch. Col. Lee was run over by a run away horse and bruised but has gone back to be well taken care of. Capt. Hollowell also scratched. Our Company lost in killed and wounded 12 men (not counting more than 200 men) out of 30. Capt. Shepard and I were entirely unhurt.

Abbott was shot through the arm just before we fell back, and he stuck to us, although suffering great pain, and would not go to the Surgeons till all was over.

I cannot describe the other battles here. We lost no one there, but a few were slightly scratched. This battle was altogether the greatest. Our marches have been terribly tiresome, and we have been without clothing to change for several days, though wet through. Herbert is quite used up and has gone back. So have Widen and Curtis. Edgewell, St. Edward must back long ago, and Shergis has been for some time on Berry's staff, so we are very short of Officers. Our Regiment now numbers a little over 200 men.

But the 20th has done splendidly, everyone says so. In fact I hardly know how men could have done better than obey orders and keep formation under the heaviest fire and in a trying repulse.

Our colors are of course safe, though torn with balls. The State Flag is torn to shreds by a shell.

I have only hurried off this account. I shall try to write long letters and full accounts soon. As to the Strategy &c. I will not now speak. Opinions are divided here. For myself I have still the fullest confidence in the cause and the Generals. It cannot be denied however that quantities of our Regiments do not and will not stand. If all were 20th there would be no need of re-enforcements or anything else. As far as I have seen the Rebels always

give way before a steady advance. Reinforcements have landed
in very large numbers and I think have gone to the front. We
are now perfectly quiet and safe and expect to remain here and
renew our energies a little.

Please ask Mother to send me another little prayer book
by mail. Please ask John to send by mail one or two of the spring
clasps, or books used to connect the sword with the belt straps. They
are of brass and are of this shape. The scabbard is attached
in the way I have rudely represented

Please show this to John and he will know what I mean.

Best love to Mother and all. I stood the hardships
perfectly. I feel I never shall cease to remember those events
in the most vivid manner. I fear you have been very anxious.
I really could not write before. Received to day letter from
Mother, 30th, I think.

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near
Harrison's Landing, Md. July 14th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have just received your letter of the 7th enclosing one from
Zenida together with Mother's of 11. 3rd (mailed at Swampscott), John's
inclosing 2 sword clasp, and an Advertiser. For all these I am
very much obliged. Please thank John for getting and sending the
clasp. They are excellent though much larger than our old ones.

I assure you, my dear Father, I feel deeply grateful to God
preserving me amid so great dangers and hardships and I never
forget that you all pray constantly for me, that I may be preserved
from harm, and this is a most comforting thought. I feel that I
have been supported in the greatest danger by putting my whole trust
in God and in feeling perfectly resigned to whatever may happen, and
I know I have thus been enabled to preserve calmness in battle
and the better to discharge my duty. I never can be grateful en-
ough to God for giving me such parents and such friends.

You speak of my losses. I really feel that I have lost nothing
so little has been my loss in comparison with that of others. For
Rayward lost everything except the clothes on his back and the
horse he escaped on, and this he sacrificed that the wagons might
be used for the wounded and sick. He got every one of his

patients safely off. Almost every one lost more than I. I lost nothing I cannot easily replace. I have quite enough clothes with me, and an abundant supply in my trunk which I now daily expect by Express. My overcoat I cannot easily replace but in this weather the coat is quite heavy enough without it. I only use it occasionally to sleep in. The boots lost perhaps \$3. worth I can be easily replaced. My valise is perfectly safe. I have written on for two more days, I find it very easy to lose days here.

I am now more comfortable than I have been since we began the Campaign. I have a wall tent. I have had a bed made of poles very comfortable, and I am sitting on the top of a bread-box put up for a table. I have the sides of the tent looped up, and although the sun is hot a fine breeze circulates. We are in a very healthy part of the country. None of the languid feeling we had on the Chickasawing. The soil is sandy, and the land high. Very soon the Express will run regularly and then we shall have everything.

Soft bread is now a great luxury. It is brought up from the Fort and eagerly bought at 25¢ a loaf. Lemons are 12½-cents each. No milk, eggs, butter or poultry are to be got, but we get beef, potatoes, onions and flour and do very well. The dog will no doubt come up to-day. I shall greatly enjoy the limes &c. The Doctor says scurvy is often caused by sameness of food, and advises as much acid food as possible. You see we have no fresh fruit or vegetables at all, and

some acid is always taken in these.

I wrote yesterday to Mother. Love to all. I hope you
will enjoy Swampscott.

Your ever affectionate Son,
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment
Harrison's Landing July 19th 1862.

My dear Father.

I have to day sent home by Adams' Express my trunk, which I left at Brookville in Ireland, and which I wrote for and which come on to me here by Express. I have taken out of it some underclothes, books, papers, &c. &c. and now send it back only half full. There is a dress coat, pair thick trousers and waistcoat and some stockings and drawers which Mother had better have put away for fear of moths. There is a bundle of private papers (letters, my commission &c.) which I have directed to John, and which he understands what to do with. There is a small tin box containing fixed ammunition for my pistol and another box containing a little powder, caps and ball. I send back a fatigue cap which I would like to have carefully kept against my return. As I have worn it ever since we marched from Camp Gordon, and it has been on my head in all our battles and skirmishes. I send my knife, the one Harry Elmer gave, which has a great variety of blades. I have found this exceedingly useful and would be very glad if John would take it to Bradford's and have it fixed up. I enclose a short note to John asking him to get certain things for me, and telling him about the trunk.

The trunk and the rest of its contents can either be laid

aside or used by the family. Should I pass another long season in any fixed camp or Garrison, I should probably send on for it and my things. I enclose the key.

Beside this trunk I have now a box and a camp chest, both full, at the store of Mr. John S. Higgins at Louisville, and my valise with me here. I have told you I think that I have parted with Henry. I shall perhaps pick up a contraband here, but would prefer a good white servant from home. Moreover there is no fact whatever. I shall and to day have been cool and comfortable.

Best love to Mother and all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near
Harrison's Landing Va. July 23^d 1862.

My dear Father.

I received yesterday your letter of the 18th and Mother is enclosed, for which I am very much obliged. I was very glad to see your name among those who are helping forward the good cause by personal exertions in such a time as this. I hope you will urge the filling up of the old Regiments to at least 600 men each, before new Regiments are formed. A recruit learns his duty much more rapidly when placed beside old soldiers, and besides, the new Officers cannot be so fitted to instruct recruits as those who have had recent experience of actual service.

Beside this a Regiment partly composed of men who have been previously under fire is much more to be depended upon in battle. A new Regiment is almost useless for picket and outpost duty. Nothing but experience fits either Officers or men for this.

I received yesterday two rolls of writing paper by mail. They will come into use very soon and I am much obliged for them. I have sent you by mail the key of my trunk. As I still have the trunk here and may not be able to send it for some time, will you please send me the key back? I shall perhaps want to open the trunk again.

All is quiet here. We had a grand review yesterday. The

river is full of lumberboats and Steamers and provision vessels.
I enclose a letter for Mother.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopez.

Camp 20th Regiment near
Harrison's Landing, Va. August 3, 1862.

My dear Father.

I received last night your letter dated Swampscott July 30th and was very sorry to find your cold was so serious as to confine you to your bed. I had no idea it had been so severe, but I am very glad to hear you have got over the worst and are now getting better. Not doing weather such as I hear you have here is very unhealthy and very apt to tempt one to expose oneself to colds.

I received the key of the trunk some days ago, but have not yet been able to send the trunk home. I am waiting for somebody to go back at least to Fort Monroe whence it can be sent home by Express. It is your black English trunk, with which I left home in December which I intend to send home now. It is too large to be carried in a campaign, and the smaller new trunk (or valise) is quite big enough. This has been so much rumoured here that 2 of our Officers have written for valises just like it — and one has come out to Capt. Macy, which is the exact counterpart of mine.

Mr. Clifford did send a supply of San Jellies, &c. to the Hospital of the Regiment. I have not distributed all the tracts yet, and cannot for there are more than are wanted. I fear very few are read and great quantities wasted. We are most beautifully supplied now with

everything needed in Hospital, and the Tract Society can give us
nothing we need. Mr. Alfred has a nice carriage and drives about,
visiting Camps and distributing tracts, and I have no doubt enjoys himself
very much. If all this is paid for by the Society, however, I really
think he might be better employed as a Preacher or Missionary.
It is very well of course to have good racks supplied, but they are so
gladfully given away here that by far the greater part is wasted.
I have not heard from Mr. Alfred since he left me the tracts, and
have not received the \$10.- worth of comforts you say you sent to me. I
am indeed greatly obliged, and will acknowledge them as soon as I
receive them. I think there is no better way to send things than
by Adams' Express. As to what we most need, I would suggest a
few loaves of real brown bread, lemons or Oranges, Syrup, such as
Raspberry, Lemon and Ginger or Sarsaparilla, which are excellent to
drink with the very soft water we get here. When such luxuries as
Jellies, Jams, Cakes and Preserves, or Honey, would be of course most
acceptable. Of any preserve I would suggest ginger, as this has an
excellent effect on the bowels. We use tonics, astringents and some
stimulants here always. It is almost impossible to keep clear of
a light kind of diarrhoea, accompanied with languor and weakness.
Upon every thing else I should put Cherry Cordial. It is perfectly
invaluable for the bowels. I should think some kind of tonic-bitters
would be most excellent.

Do not

think that I am sick and in need of anything, for no one keeps up
better than I although of course I am not so strong and tough as I
should be if I was in Swampscott. I am somewhat troubled with
this unavoidable diarrhoea but nothing of any consequence.

Today a very heavy force has gone out to have a look at
the Rebels on the Charles E. road. We do not anticipate any
serious action. Probably they will meet no resistance.

Best love to Mother and all.

Your ever affectionate son
Henry.

Enclosed letter for J. C. R.

Camp near Harrison's Landing,
Va. Thursday, 7th August 1862.

My Dear Father.

I have this morning returned from a three days' expedition to Malvern Hill and am glad to say that not only I feel no worse for the tiresome trip but a good deal better and stronger than I did before I went. I think we have let the Rebels see that we are alive still and that we need a pretty careful watching. Our Regiment was not in the battle, and we have no loss of any kind to record.

We were ordered to get ready on last Monday afternoon, and at 6 P.M. our Division began the march. Our Regiment is the rearmost one and we started at 7 P.M. We marched with hardly a halt till about 2.30 or 3 O'clk. A.M. of Tuesday, and during that time had come first about North on the Charles City road - a wide good road, and then Westerly through an ever of back roads where it was very dark. At about 3 A.M. we drew up in an open field and lay down and slept about 2 hours. Then when it became light we marched on, and could hear Gunboats firing on our left. We finally came out on the main road to Richmond close to our old battle field of Nelson's Farm, and turning again to the left, approached Malvern Hill from the North. We had been entirely round Malvern Hill. We now hear some Artillery -

and soon after we got to McIlwain Mill, and found that the enemy had been scattered by the forces which preceded us after a very slight resistance, and that the enemy had escaped over another road between us and the river. Our horse Artillery and Cavalry were in pursuit however and about 200 prisoners were taken, and I believe two Caribbons. They managed to get off their 2 guns. We had marched about 18 miles now, and were glad to rest and eat something. We had all brought 2 days' rations. The remainder of the day we staid on McIlwain Mill, and slept there and the next day (Wednesday) 2 days more rations were sent for, and it was reported that we were to occupy the hill permanently. It was dreadfully hot, and we did as well as we could by fastening up our rubber blankets for a shade. Mr. Clellan was here, and fresh troops arrived. In the afternoon we were marched to the front and added to Gorman's Brigade in the extreme advance. All night we heard that the enemy were retreating in great force. I forgot to say that as there were very few Officers, I was put in Command of Company I, the right flank Company. All night the whole Regiment went on picket. I was on the extreme right of course, and I met the left of Gen. Cooke's pickets at a little shanty, on an open field, which I picketed to the left of the shanty, and he to the right. It was bright moonlight, and very open country. A number of houses were at a barn on a hill in front of us. I placed the men, and went

to the right hand post myself where was the Sharps. At about 10
O'clock A.M. my rifle men the alarm and I was astonished to see
the pickets on my right (115th Pennsylvania) running in. One cried
out "Retreat". I had received no orders, and after looking about and
finding nothing to cause an alarm I went back to the officer in charge
and he told me he had no orders to withdraw silently. I put out an extra
sentinel on my right flank and waited about 3 hours when Hooker's
pickets were put back. I had heard Artillery moving in my rear for
a long time, and felt sure we were falling back. At about 1 O'Clock.
Hooker's pickets were again withdrawn, and about 2, just as the moon
set, I received orders to draw in and fall back to a certain house;
which I did with my company, and very soon Capt. Millowell, in
command of the right pickets arrived with his men, and we all marched
back, joined the Regiment and marched to the McAlver Mill road,
where we found the last of the troops filing off, and joined in behind
Gorman's Brigade. The retreat was of course covered by Cavalry.
We marched back by the road along which we retreated a month ago,
and ^{when} we had gone about 3 miles we met cavalry outposts, and sometime
after passed through Casey's troops drawn up to cover our retreat.
Horse Artillery passed to the rear and we felt sure that all was right.
It was now broad daylight. We marched on, and about 6 A.M.
this (Thursday) morning we passed through our lines of entrenchments
and arrived safely in camp. Of course we were glad enough to get

back and enjoy rest and get a good bath.

I thought I was somewhat weakened by the late hot weather, but I found I stood the long marches and fire very picket duty remarkably well and now feel better than ever. I find one only wants something to do to be able to do it. We have been very successful and made a decided diversion in favor of Hope, and scattered a Brigade of Rebels and taken about 200 prisoners. I was of course rather anxious 3 days.

I have received the ind: Rubb: pail, haversack &c. all right.
No letter from you all for 3 days now.

Best love to Mother and all.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Harriens Landing Sunday P.M.
August 10th 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote to John this morning that I did not expect to move for a long time, but this afternoon I hear from a Staff Officer that this Division will move to-morrow at 2 P.M. down the river. This may not be true but it probably is, and if it is you may not hear from me for several days. No attack is expected. It may be we are going to Washington and thence to Egypt. Perhaps to hold the position lately occupied by Burnside, perhaps we are the first instalment, and the whole Army is to follow. I think it most likely we are going near to Fort Monroe first, and I cannot guess further.

At all events it is decidedly most probable that we shall be for some days away from active operations.

If I learn more I can write you I will. I only write now lest you should be anxious at not getting letters. My boxes are still with the Express, and will remain safe with them.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

P.S. Just received Mother's and Mary Ann's of the 6th. Enclosed is Key of trunk - We leave to-morrow.

Henry Ropes. 10 P.M.

Wednesday 13th August 1862
Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va.

My dear Father.

We are still here, all quiet, and no signs of the enemy. All our baggage except a very small amount we take with us has gone on transports. As far as I can learn the whole Army is still here, but in tight marching order, and ready for an instant move in any direction. There are transports here somewhere, but it is only we are to march. All the sick have been sent off. Just heard of a great battle with Pope. Do not know the final result. One account says Capt. Abbott of the 2^d is killed, but the Herald does not give his name, and we hope it is not true.

I suppose we are awaiting news of the result. Our pickets are out nearly to Malvern Hill, and at last accounts all was quiet. I have not received boxes etc. Just received letter from John. Will try to answer soon.

In haste

Your affectionate Son
Henry.



Camp 20th Regiment, Newport-
News, Va. Saturday August 23^d 1862.

My dear Father.

We arrived here safely after a week's march from Harris-
son's Landing, and are now-camped on a high bluff overlooking the
river. It is cool and pleasant.

We fell in at our old Camp at S. M. on Friday the 15th
inst., and our baggage was sent on before us. We did not get orders to
march till 6 a.m. on Saturday the 16th, and then we slowly left
the entrenchments and marched to Charles City Court house where
we camped for the Saturday night. On Sunday (17th) we marched to the
mouth of the Chickahominy, a very dusty and tiresome march. Very
early on Monday (18th) morning we crossed the Chickahominy on a pon-
toon bridge, and stopped on the opposite bank a enough to get a
most refreshing bath in the James (River). Then we marched on 5 miles
and camped for the night. Tuesday (19th) we marched to Williamsburgh
passed through the town and camped 4 miles beyond near Fort Maguire.
Williamsburgh is quite a fine old place. A great many very old
looking fine houses. The College is quite a large fine building.
Wednesday (20th) we marched to York town, camped on the North side
of the town and had a good bath in the York river.

Here I met with an unfortunate accident. James had

just made me a pot of coffee and placed it close to my foot. I did not see it and moved my foot and split the hot coffee on my ankle and instep. I received quite a severe scald and suffered a good deal as there was no remedy at hand. One of my Corporals however brought me a bottle of Refined Arabian Balsam which he recommended most highly, and which I applied liberally, and bound it on with a handkerchief. It caused a very intense pain for about 1/2 an hour after which the pain entirely passed off, and I have not been troubled since. The Doctor however told me I must keep my foot bound up and not wear a shoe, as if I were off the blister I should have a very serious wound. So for Thursday and Friday I was obliged to ride on horseback, without a shoe and with only a handkerchief bound lightly round the place. I now have it properly dressed, and the Doctor says it will soon be well, but tells me not to walk. It is very fortunate that our marching is now over for the present.

On Thursday 21st we made a very tremendous march from beyond Porttown to Big Bethel, during the heat of the day, and yesterday 22nd we marched here. Here we got our baggage and are most comfortably off in every way. We expect our Express boats to sail from the fort.

On the march we got some fine apples from the farms and often chickens, ducks and turkeys. Now we expect abundant supplies of food from the fort.

We understand we are to stay several days here. Beyond this, I

Know nothing, but it is rumored that a considerable force is to be kept here to threaten Dedham, and we may be a part of such force.

I received yesterday the mail for the last week, and acknowledge the receipt of the following letters &c. From you of August 1st enclosing one from Mother of the 13th. Also one from one of the 12th; one from Louisa of the 8th dated "Lebbinston, Maine"; one from Mary Ann of the 12th. 3 newspapers, "Facts", 1 volume, "Lichen's" "Black House", and the Atlantic for September. Before leaving Harrison's Landing I received letters from Mother and Mary Ann of August 6th which I do not think I even acknowledged.

I am deeply grieved to hear certainly of the death of Capt. Abbott and St. Perkins of the 2^d. St. Abbott is very much affected, but bears up nobly. They were most affectionate brothers.

John will feel Stephen Perkins' death very much. We are all well here. I am in most excellent health, and hope soon to be quite able to march.

My best love to Mother and all. I hope soon to acknowledge the receipt of the boxes.

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry Lopez.

Alexandria, near Washington, on
board Steamship "Atlantic" Thursday
August 28th 1862 10 A.M.

My dear Father.

We have just arrived here after a most comfortable voyage
from Newport News. We know nothing of our future movements, but
expect to land soon. The 12th and 15th New York and the 10th Mass;
are on board beside us. We saw part of the 1st Mass. Cavalry at Aquia
Creek, where we stopped last night for ours.

This is the old Collins Steamer. Captain Storidge. Officers had
Staterooms and the regular table was set for them. All perfectly well. My
feet very much better and rapidly healing. Shall write again very soon
if I have a chance when I get ashore.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

August 31st Sunday, near 1862.
Fairfax Court House, Va. 2 P.M.

My dear Father.

We marched here this morning from near Washington. Herbert
and Patten have just come.

All well. A great ball yesterday, but all quiet to-day.

In great haste

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment, Mass.
near Alexandria Va. September 3rd 1862.

My dear Father.

After a day of tire some marching and picket duty, we are brought to the same place which we left on Saturday last. I wrote you from Chain Bridge that we were to occupy some forts permanently. Our orders were changed and we crossed the Chain Bridge and went to some hills N.W. of Washington. Here we heard all day Saturday the heavy cannonading, and we knew a real battle was going on. We marched again at 3 A.M. on Sunday; passed through Georgetown, crossed the river and marched through a heavy rain to Fairfax Court House Va. where we arrived at 12 M. after a march of 29 hours. We had several long halts however and the march was well conducted and not very trying.

As we expected fully to go to the front and be engaged with the enemy very soon, I kept with the Regiment although my foot was very lame. We lay down for a few hours at Fairfax my Company and Co. I being advanced and pickets thrown out, for a body of Rebel Cavalry had appeared in rear of our main Army. Morning morning we advanced about 5 miles and occupied a road and rested all day. Our pickets were thrown out and met a few of the enemy and we had one man of Company C wounded. We found a large body of Cavalry

had got in between us and the main body of the Army at Centerville. In the afternoon Hooker advanced, and attacked them, and we found part of the 2^d line, behind a hastily built breast work. I hear he drove them off. A rain storm made the night very uncomfortable, but Tuesday was a very fine day, and very cool. Our Army now fell back, leaving us as the extreme Infantry advance. Casey & Bloduin formed line of battle behind us and the Cavalry were a little in front of us. At about 5 P. M. we fell back, and afterwards halted and let all the other troops go by, and our Brigade covered the retreat. We were still detached from our Division and were now under Hooker. The enemy pressed us, but a section of horse Artillery was ordered to the rear and kept them back. I at first rode with the Regiment on the Adjutant's horse, but before long got a chance to ride on a Caisson of a Regiment of Artillery in Grant's Corps and thus reached Alexandria soon after midnight. The Artillery went much farther than the Regiment without my knowledge, and I could not find the Regiment in the darkness and therefore got in at a house and slept till this morning when I found the Regiment. I am now with it here. I rode because my foot was very lame after my long march. This morning I have seen Col. Lee and Major Keever, and they both look very well, and we are delighted to see them again here. We shall no doubt have a season of rest here. The Army needs a month to recruit and refit, so then I hope we

shall make our last voyage. I am in perfect health, and have no
doubt a few days rest will cure my foot. I have received from
Col. Lee's servant the shoulder straps you'd sent me. Thus I see
you must have got my trunk and keys. I hope to write again very
soon. Excuse this letter written under great difficulties.

All well in the Regiment.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment
Fencibletown near Washington, D.C.
September 3rd 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote to you last from Alexandria day before yesterday, telling you of our heavy marches to and from Fairfax Court House. Yesterday the Brigade under Col. Lee marched to this place crossing at Chain Bridge. Our Corps, and Banks' is here, and I understand Banks' is to-day to move up the river to Booleville. I was unable to march yesterday and came in an ambulance with Col. Minko of the 19th Regiment, a very pleasant man. He told me that we marched 30 miles on Sunday, from 2 A.M. till 12 P.M., and that taking the 3 days together we marched 65 miles in 24 consecutive hours. This march quite used up my foot, and I found yesterday that I was quite unable to march, but to-day it is much better and I have no doubt a few days' rest will quite restore it.

We are now on very high land and shall probably be very comfortable. I have written to Booleville and ordered my two boxes there to be sent home to you by Adams' Express. I enclose the Keys. They are filled with Camp equipage which I could not carry with me from Booleville. Please open the boxes and make any use of the contents. Some of the things I may need and if so will send for them.

For close see close of letter of 26 Sept/62 -

Camp Defiance near Rockville
Md. Monday September 8th 1862.

My dear Father.

We marched from Fencibletown on Saturday last and drew up here in line of battle in support of batteries and sent out pickets. We had heard of the invasion of the Rebels, and we quite expected a battle, as their pickets occupied Larnestown a few miles before us. However they have not molested us, and now we have an immense force here. Banks is on our left, and the 2^d Corps is close to us in the 2^d line. I was really very much astonished to hear that the Rebels had crossed, but I think it will be their ruin, that is if they are here in force. I do not think they will attack us here, for we are in a very strong position, and they seem to me making to the north. Perhaps after all they will retire after supplying themselves with what food and clothing they can get.

Mr. John Gray has just been here and is getting a good idea of military matters. We are in a most beautiful and healthy Camp, and as Genl. Sumner has to-day given it a name "Defiance" and our baggage has just come up. I think we may be some time here. My foot is much better. I enclose 2 bills of \$2. each of M. C. Banks. I understand both are good but they will not often take N. S. bills here. If they are good will you please send me back the \$2. each.

in U.S. \$ 1. = a better still postage stamp ^{and} small change?

I received yesterday yours of the 14th and Mothers of August
23th enclosing a letter from Decent at Berlin and Zizzo
at Zwickau. Please thank all and say I hope to answer soon.

I am delighted you gave such a handsome present to Mr. Willard.
I know he will value it exceedingly. All friends here well. The
Colonel as brisk and active as ever. He already looks much
better than when he came, for he is sunburnt and ruddy. Very much
obliged to you for attending to my little matters, and for sending to their
owners the contents of the trunk.

Letter for Mary Ann enclosed.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp 2nd Regiment near
Middletown, Md. Monday September 15th
1862
O.A.M.

My dear Father.

We came here late last night having marched very far to the North during the day. We marched from Rockville to Frederick City via Clarksburg and Middlebrook and camped day before yesterday close to Frederick. The people show every sign of joy at our arrival. There was a severe battle here yesterday before we came up, about which I have not yet heard much, but we drove the Rebels at last. All quiet here this morning, so I suppose they have retreated in the night. I hear the 35th Mass. was engaged. Gen. Reno is killed - his body was carried by us. The houses were filled with wounded when we passed up. We are about 2 miles from the position the Rebels occupied last night. My foot is well. All the Regiment safe and well, except Lieutenants Abbott, Murphy and Beckwith who are ill and left at Frederick. I do not think Abbott is much ill, but it would have hurt him to march and we persuaded him to stay behind for a day or two.

Received letter from mother of the 3rd. No other letters. Please do not send on the pistol if there is no fixed Ammunition to fit it. Love to Mother and all. Shall try to write soon. Our force

here is your letter and we are in reserve and in all probability shall not
be engaged in case another battle takes place in a few days.

In great haste

Your affectionate son
M. M. M.

Field near Sharpsburg, Va.
Friday, September 19th 1862.

My dear Father.

We have had a tremendous battle and again I have been mercifully preserved from all harm. It began at 5 AM. on Wednesday, day before yesterday, and we have been on picket — ever since the fight. Last night the enemy left and have probably crossed the river. We are drawn back, our forces in pursuit. Col: Palfrey is wounded in shoulder and I believe missing; Capt: Noltes in neck; Capt: Hallowell in arm; Lt. Milton slightly in three places; Lt. Col: Revere in arm; Col: Lee safe and well; Genl. Richardson mortally; Genl. Sedgwick badly; Genl. Dana in leg; Col: Hinko killed. Our Division suffered awfully. I was bruised slightly twice, once by a spent ball in the shoulder, and once by a cannon shot which passed between my legs, just grazing my knee. Herbert and all the rest safe. Abbott and Macy not there.

Most affectionate son
Henry —

P.S. Have just heard that Lt. Revere is killed, may not be true.

Camp on Battle field near Sharpsburg, Md.
Saturday 20th September 1862.

My dear Father.

I wrote to you a pencil note yesterday just to tell you of my safety &c. We have had a really terrific battle. Our Division was formed in three lines, the first line German's Brigade, the second ours, the third Burns. The principal musketry firing was done of course by the first line. We were under a heavy fire, however, and suffered from artillery while advancing. We drove the enemy before us with tremendous loss on both sides. The slaughter was horrible especially close to the Ragastown turnpike where the enemy made a stand by the fences. We finally advanced down a slope, beyond which the enemy held a cornfield and farmhouse with barn and outbuildings, all on an opposite slope. The enemy had Cannon planted on the top and constantly swept us down with grape and Shrapnel shot. Our line was advanced close to the first, exposing us to an equal fire while we could not fire at all because of our first line. The third line was finally advanced close to the second; all this time we stood up and were shot down without being able to reply. Sedgwick and Latta were shot, and we had no one to command the Division. The enemy in the meantime came round on our left and rear and poured in a terrible cross-fire. Summer

came up in time to save the Division and ordered us to march off by the right flank. We did so, but the left Regiments gave way in confusion, the enemy poured in upon our rear, and now the slaughter was no less than anything I have ever seen before. Sumner walked his horse quiet along waving his hand and keeping all steady near him. Although the Regiments in rear of us were rushing by us and threatened our ranks in the greatest confusion, we kept our Company perfectly steady, did not take a single step faster than the regular marching order, and brought off every man except those killed and wounded who of course were left. Ricketts' regular Battery and some Regiments drawn up at right angles to us stayed the enemy, and the broken Regiments reformed in the rear. Our Brigade suffered awfully, the 7th Michigan has only four Officers left. The 42^d and 50th New York Regiments broke and gave way most disgracefully, our Regiment fell into perfect order as soon as we halted, and was immediately advanced to the front, and our Company and Company A sent out on picket. We stood on picket till yesterday morning, when we were advanced as skirmishers and found the enemy had evacuated. We had heard them moving all night and had circumstantial information of it, and were sure they were retreating. Now we are camped on a part of the battle field. I hear that McEllister is pursuing the enemy and that Sumner's Corps is left behind here. We are all quiet and are burying the dead &c.

A Pioneer of our Regiment by name Bean, wishes me to send word of his safety and good health to a Miss Will who is at the same water cure that Louisa is at. Will you please ask Louisa to do so?

Of our Regiment Dr. Revere was shot dead on the field while dressing a wounded man's leg. His body was immediately rifled of everything of the least value. Col. Seligman badly wounded in the shoulder, taken prisoner and released, or rather left behind. Capt. McElwain shot through the neck, and Capt. MacDowell in the arm. Milton slightly in three places, St. Col. Revere in the arm. The losses of other Regiments of the Division are enormous. Shall try to write again soon.

Love to Mother.

Your affectionate son

J. C. Ferry.

Camp 20th Regiment Mass. Volunteers
Bellevue Heights, Va. September 20th 1861.

My dear Father.

Friday.

I have received no letters from home since I wrote last to you from this camp. We are still quietly recruiting ourselves, drilling our new men and setting things generally 'to rights'.

Col. Lee is, as you know, in command of the Brigade, and to-day he detailed me to act as Aide-de-Camp, Sinto. Hollowell and Milton the two regular Aides of Genl. Dana being away ill. I am to remain during the absence of Lt. Milton. The Colonel asked me to share his tent, and I am now with him. He has quite a cold yet and is not well, but I hope he will soon improve. I of course get a horse by this arrangement, and many other comforts. It is of course only temporary.

We are camped on the brow of the hill, the air is very pure and healthy, and I think I never saw a better place for one's health. If you can find a recruit or Officer coming on, I should be very glad if you would send me my buffalo skin. By the time it gets here the nights will be cold enough for it.

I am perfectly well. Best love to Mother. Please thank Sister Mary for her letter and say I intend to write very soon.

By the way, I believe I have not acknowledged yours of the 20th.

Yours lovingly

From all I hear Mc. Dowell made a bad job of his retreat and our loss was heavy, and a great deal of valuable stores and many wagons fell into the enemy's hands. I can see no excuse for this. A good firm rear guard can stop almost any pursuit. We have now twice covered a retreat, and both times with success.

Jackson seems to strike terror everywhere. I hope Sumner will meet him some day and turn the tables. We expect to be here several weeks. I am perfectly well as usual. Herbert is quite strong and well and stood the hard marching perfectly. I have written to John to get me a number of things, and I have no doubt it will take up much of his time to see to them, but he is very kind in attending to everything, and I think I have now found out exactly what I need.

Best love to Mother and all. I shall write soon and answer all letters when I can get a tent up.

Ever your affectionate son
Henry.

This is probably the son of a letter
dated Sept. 5. 1862

Head Quarters Bolivar Heights.
October 1st 1862.

My dear Father.

I received yesterday your two letters of September 26th and one from Mother of the 25th. Thank you very much for again sending me so many comforts and luxuries.

I have not yet received the two boxes sent on with St. Abbott, the parcel of fly netting you sent me the box by St. Johnston. The two first were sent last July or August and probably went to Harrison's Landing. In a very few days the Express Company expect to open a depot here and then I shall probably receive all. When we were at Harrison's Landing, you wrote to me that you had sent through Mr. Elford, Agent of the American Tract Society \$10.00 worth of "Gospels". Perhaps they were for the sick, I am not sure, but at any rate I never got them. Mr. Elford brought some tracts to the Regiment, and gave some Bibles, Enckers &c. to the Hospital of the Regiment, but if I remember correctly your donation was after this.

You say you hear letters miscarey. Please tell me if you received lately a letter from me containing \$4.00 in Mass. Banks to be changed for U. S. notes? I sent such a letter. I believe I am right about the boxes &c. I give the list as I expect to get them. Please tell me if it is right.

Boxes &c. sent to me.

1 box Ole &c.

by Adams Express

1 " Ginger (Mrs. Dr. H. &c.)

" " "

1 parcel Netting

" " "

1 suppl. "Bedding"

American Tract Society

1 box Brandy &c.

St. Grafton.

These I have received notice of and expect.

Please tell Mother that I long ago sent my thanks to Cousin Kitty for the ravens. I have written for some letter stamps. They are very scarce here now.

I think you underestimate our loss. Our Brigade lost most heavily of all. The day after the battle Col. Lee took command, and it then numbered 960 men for 5 Regiments. He reported officially a loss in all of almost 900 men. Our Corps of about 13,000 or 14,000 men lost between 5,000 and 6,000. I think our entire loss must be 12,000 to 14,000.

We are all quiet here and no news.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Head Quarters, 3^d Brigade
Bolivar Heights, Va.
October 6th 1862.

My dear Father.

I received last night by Express the two boxes you sent on by St. Abbott to Harrison's Landing, and the bundle of fly netting. The damage to the contents of the boxes was less than I had expected, considering they had been so long on the way and had been carried once to Harrison's Landing and then back, and been exposed to so great heat. The box of Ale was broken, and two bottles taken out, and one broken, but I thought it very fortunate that I got 9 bottles safe out of 12. In the other box the Lemons of course were rotten. One bottle of Cherry Cordial was broken, and the top of the ginger preserve was loose, so the liquid part of the contents of the jar had soaked into about every thing that would absorb it. The shirts can easily be washed, and nothing was spoiled but the Sedlitz Powders, which I do not now need. The ginger bread was quite dry, but of course rather stale. The rest of the Cordial, the Brandy, Bitters, Syrup, Sugar, Tea, Figs &c. &c. were all safe and in good condition and are most acceptable. I assure you I shall use them all most carefully and shall greatly enjoy them. I expect the other things by Express in a day or two.

Mrs. Lee is here now at Head Quarters with the Colonel,

and to day is to dine here at the Mess.

It is cool to day and windy and seems quite like Autumn. There is nothing stirring and no prospect of a move, and every body is getting settled down into as comfortable quarters as they can get.

I enclose a note for Mrs. Dr. Jeffries, thanking her for her kind present of Ginger preserve. It is in perfect condition, very nice indeed.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th October 15th 1862
Wednesday.

My dear Father.

I am trying to induce John to remain a day or two longer, and have no doubt I shall succeed. He unfortunately left his valise in Washington, and ought to wait here till it is sent to him. I have now returned to the Regiment, as L^{ieut} Milton of the Staff (whose place I took) has got home from Boston, and I can make John perfectly comfortable here. I think he really owes me a visit of 2 weeks at least, and hope he will stay. His eyes will be much benefitted by the rest and change of occupation &c. We went day before yesterday to Clutickam, and saw the whole field. We passed the night at Keedsville very comfortably, & Robt. Lee went with us, and he and John have secured quantities of bullets, shells &c. for allies.

You asked once about letters mis-carrying. A thief has been discovered here, at Genl. McDowell's Head Quarters, who has for some time robbed the mails. I hope all letters will in future go safely. Best love to all. I have received no letters for 3 days. John will probably visit John Gray and the 2^d Regiment to-day.

Your affectionate son

Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment
Bolivar, October 20th 1862.

My dear Father.

I received yesterday your letter of September 30th enclosing one from Mary Ann of September 20th, which were delayed by being sent to the 20th Maine Regiment. The Captain of Company K, 20th Maine sent them to me. Perhaps the direction in Mary Ann's handwriting was not quite clear enough. The best and surest direction to me is "Lt. Reps. 20th Regiment Mass: Volunteers, Washington, D. C." This is enough and is always right. You speak in your letter of St. Robert's death which was indeed very sad. I wrote about it at the time. I observed in the paper the death of Stephen Leeman. So he is gone. I shall no doubt hear from you about his death. I do not know what to make of the Mail now for I get almost no letters. I have as yet been unable to get anything from the Express Office, although they acknowledge they have one box for me.

I see by your letter (of September 30th) that you have received my letter asking for the buffalo skin and I am glad it is already sent on. We have had warm weather the last few days, but a week or so ago we really suffered.

Col. Lee has been quite ill owing I think to his cruel exposure during the reconnaissance, but he is much better now. Yesterday a rumor

was current of his death. I do not know whether any newspaper
correspondent, anxious to hear if he was taken it up or not, but for fear
Mrs. Lee should hear of it, I wrote to her (care of Mr. McLean,
Chesham Hill & Philadelphia) and explained how the Col. I was. I did
not telegraph for fear the mere reception of a dispatch would alarm her,
and induce her to come on. Colonel was much better yesterday and nicely
to-day. He is in a comfortable house in the town.

I received the pistol &c. with a letter from Capt. Cabot. Grafton
was obliged to send the box back but I expect it by Express. I believe
I received a letter or two from him. I send love to mother. Enclose
letter for Mary Ann.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment, Bolivar, Ia.
October 30th 1862.

My dear Father.

I got the trunk by express day before yesterday, all right containing buffalo, 2 blue blankets, Knapsack, India Rubber Blanket, 2 bottles wine, gingerbread, Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Saucer, Cup, Saucer, plate hatchet, ditto and some cherry cordial for Herbert, and I believe everything I sent for.

You can hardly imagine how much more comfortable these things have made me. Everything is of the best, and exactly what I wanted. The buffalo and the Blankets are very great comforts especially. There is still a box at the Office for me which they cannot find yet but which I suppose is the one sent by Grafton, containing Brandy, Tea, Sugar &c. It will no doubt turn up soon, just when most needed. There is a general movement going on. Harbeck moves to-day. - Sherman's Brigade was under marching orders at 5 A.M. and we are ordered to prepare 3 days rations. It may follow - where? I cannot tell. Col. Lee left yesterday for Washington on a leave of absence. He certainly needs it. Capt. Le Duc accompanied him. In consequence of the burning of some freight cars, the trains have been delayed on the other side of the river, and he was obliged to pass the night in Knoxville. Mrs. Lee came on from Washington yesterday afternoon, bearing

that the Colonel was ill. She must have passed him on the way, as she came in the same train he went back in. She passed the night at the Colonel's Old quarters, and returned to Washington this morning, by the early train. I saw her off at 5 A.M. in Capt. Le Duc's ambulance under charge of Mr. Bromson, Capt. Le Duc's brother-in-law, who was to see her safely into the cars. I could not go because we might be ordered to move at any moment. Mrs. Lee looks very well. Cannot wait off without trouble, a little weak, but decidedly improving. The Regiment is gone out on picket, but I was obliged to remain as I am Judge Advocate of a General Court Martial here. I expect to get through to-day. I enclose a short note for Mother. Please excuse this scrap of paper, for we are all out of paper now.

As to our move, we are known anything, but it is thought we are only to be held in readiness, or move a little forward to be near at hand. When some 135,000 men have preceded us, so it is about impossible we shall see any service. I shall write when I can, but may of course be unable to do so for some days.

Your affectionate son
McCurdy.

20th Regiment on the march near
Bloomfield, La. November 3^d 1862 Monday.

My dear Father.

We left Bolivar on Thursday last 30th Oct. (Hall's Friday) and
marched Saturday and yesterday to this place some 25 miles in the front.
All quiet to day. I received the knapsack &c in time for this march
and I am in consequence more comfortable than I ever have been on a
march. I have received a great many letters, viz: yours of Sept^r 30th
giving an account of St. Ives' death and alluding to the death of
Mr. Lodge and Dr. Adams' daughter and of the 21st October about John's
visit and loss of value &c., Mother's of October 20th and 21st, Mary Ann's
of October 13th, 23rd and 26th and John's 2 of the 27th enclosing \$13.00 in U.S.
two's and 50 Cent Stamps. Please thank all. I expect of a large
letter from abroad. I have received none but perhaps you mistook one
from Henry Jeffries for a father letter.

The blankets &c. were all of most excellent quality and exactly
what I wanted. I am very comfortable indeed and have quite enjoyed the
march thus far. Please say to John I have no doubt Simon or Cotton
will do for the tent and that he had better not hesitate to reduce the size
to save weight. Very light material is quite strong enough.

John's new blankets will be very useful in the winter and will serve
quite as soon as I want them. Enclosed a note for Mary Ann.

My love to all. I cannot write after now, and cannot write to Frank
for some time probably.

Yr
ever affectionate son
Henry.

Camp, 20th Regiment
Warrenton, Va.

Sunday November 9th 1862.

My dear Father.

You see by my date that we have now marched to a point nearly opposite Washington, and not so very far from Fairfax Court House — where we were 2 months ago, having since travelled round a complete circle through Maryland, to arrive at last at the old battle ground of the war.

Weather is cold but not unpleasant for marching. Roads excellent. We had a snow storm for one day. We are now well in the rear of the Grand Army. Yesterday we saw Mc. Clellan, Sumner and Burnside together, at the little town of Salem through which we passed. We shall probably spend 3 or 4 days here, and if we get tents I shall be able to write quite often. Please ask mother to send in a letter a few pieces of tape marked: "Lt. Hayes, 20th Mass." I wish to sew one on each blanket &c. I have. Herbert and all friends well.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Letter for J. C. enclosed.

Camp 25th Regiment near Richmond
opposite Fredericksburg, Va.
Tuesday, November 18th 1862.

My dear Father.

I last wrote home from Warrenton on Friday last, Nov^{br} 14th.
On Saturday morning soon after daylight we packed up and marched
3 miles beyond Warrenton Junction. Sunday we marched all day
(Circville at 4.30 A.M.) and camped in a field at night, and yesterday we
had an easy march to this place which is a uncertainty about 1 mile from
the river. There was a good deal of Artillery firing yesterday
which I hear was our forces shelling at the Rebels across the river.
Weather has been cloudy and rainy for 2 days, but not cold. There is
a large force here, and Sumner is with us. We are now ready camped
for a night or so, and shall probably move this morning a short distance.
We can learn nothing of Army movements, and do not in the least
know our destination, but I suppose we shall not cross the river until
the whole Army is ready to cross, that is if we cross at all. I still
think that the Army of the Potomac will not move on Richmond
and risk a great battle this autumn. I think we shall lie about
here, near this City and Culpepper, with the gaps well guarded, and plenty
of troops behind at Warrenton, Circville &c. The roads are now good,
and we are near Railroads and can get supplies, but when we begin

an advance we must, to a very great extent, depend on our trains, and these cannot be moved when the heavy rains of winter set in. Then besides the men must have tents even. If we attempt what they call in the papers the "Winter Campaign" we shall labor under every disadvantage as an attacking force, in comparison with the Rebels, a defensive force. The men would sicken and die by hundreds, and before Spring this vast Army would be about used up. Especially the new troops would suffer. The enemy are now probably in their well fortified position near Gordonsville comfortable in log houses. Behind this they can have another position prepared and after our Army, after enduring every hardship, has perhaps driven them from Gordonsville, they can fall back to a 2^d comfortable position and so on arriving a battle, using our Army up, and keeping up the spirits of their people by the excitement of continual skirmishes and attacks on a small scale. Then when Spring opens they have a fresh Army and we have a broken down one.

It seems to me perfectly clear that unless Burnside is almost certain of making with no opposition he cannot at once overcome (a very unlikely supposition) he will not dare to expose the Army to such perils and will content himself with drawing a complete chain round the Rebels, shutting them out completely from North West Virginia, and then attending to the wants of his army and making them comfortable, while attacks from the South weaken the enemy and compel him to undertake frequent and harassing marches.

For my part, I do not expect to get farther South this winter, and I earnestly hope the popular will will not overawe our new General, and oblige him to take risks his military judgment would not permit. We already now that we must expect to be defeated until the people at home learn to mind their own business and let the General mind theirs.

I am as usual, well, so are all our friends here. I must beg you to excuse this bad writing, for I have no desk or table but my knee as I sit on the ground. However I know you would rather have this than no letter at all. Best love to mother and all. Please thank Dr. F. for his last and say I will answer as soon as I can.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near
Savannah, Ga., November 28th 1862.

My dear Father.

I received yesterday yours of November 22^d, enclosing a letter from Frank and also a letter from you dated September 12th enclosing \$2.00 in postage currency. I can hardly imagine what has caused this delay, but am very glad indeed to get the letter. I have also received a very kind letter from Mrs. Lee, dated Washington November 17th. I am glad to hear that the Colonel has got home and hope his health has improved. I have no doubt you had a very pleasant Thanksgiving and I wished I could have been with you. In consequence of the lack of transportation our Commissary Department has been very poorly supplied, but the Railroad I hear will be come in a week now, and then I suppose we can get enough. We can buy very small loaves of bread in the town at from 12 to 25 cents each and potatoes at \$1.00 a peck. But these are hard to get. The men get little else than bread, pork and coffee and fresh meat. They ought to have vegetables, rice, beans &c.

The Rebels are throwing up forts opposite the town and we do not disturb them. I am still on the Court Martial and have a great deal to do, but on the whole it is a pleasant change from the monotony of a camp.

I see no reason to change my former opinion that an advance on Richmond is not contemplated this winter in the face of the enemy. I do not at all expect a great battle. I think we will like Frederick Johnson.

I am perfectly well. Weather not exceedingly cold, and plenty of wood near the Camp.

Do you fear at all for your Ships on account of the Alabama? I hope there is no danger for them. As soon as the Express begins to run we shall be very comfortable. If we stay here I shall get up some sort of a log house. My buffalo I find invaluable. I sleep as comfortably as I should at home.

Best love to mother and all

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Enclosed note for J.C.

Salem, Va.
Friday, December 5th 1862.

My dear Father.

I write merely to let you know that I am still here still hard at work on the Court Martial. I have received no letters from home, but last night one from Henry Jeffries. I have no news about the Army. In our Regiment, however, we have at last had a change. Genl. Howard has ordered Capt. Macy to take command of the Regiment in consequence of Captains Decher and Shepards evident incapacity. Both these Officers are furious and have resigned, and Dr. Maynard has certified to Capt. Decher's physical inability to command the Regiment, and indeed for any service.

Capt. Shepards is very indignant but his total incapacity and his great ignorance of tactics have of late been so evident that nobody pities him, and every good Officer is glad that the Regiment is once more in competent hands.

Capt. Shepards is a bit of a politician, and has newspaper friends so I think you may see some notice of the matter in the papers.

It is a steady rain now and looks like a long storm. I often hear of the arrival of pontoon trains &c. and the prospects of an advance but I still think it impossible, or at any rate too dangerous to attempt. I think we shall stay here till Spring. I have begun

to put up a log hut and expect to move in in two days. Then I shall
be very comfortable.

Best love to mother and all the rest.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Friedrichsburg
noon Sunday, December 14th 1862.

Dear Father.

We have had another dreadful battle and I am mercifully preserved without a scratch, though I got at a 5 balls through my clothes &c. We were ordered to the assault of the enemy's works and were driven back under the most awful fire I ever stood before. We were entirely unsupported, only the 10th and 20th Mass. could be brought to face the fire at all. The 10th gave way, the 20th stood after advancing close to the enemy and only retired under orders when all was up. Then the enemy opened on us a reserved fire from works and rifle pits with fearful effect. We only fell back to a ditch which we held till night when the Regulars relieved us. Our Brigade is dreadfully cut up. It was a senseless butchery of men. We were all the time under a heavy, flanking fire of Artillery. A new Pennsylvania Brigade brought up to our support broke and ran under this fire alone. Sully's Brigade however came on and staid with us. This after our repulse. Lt. Alley is killed, Capt. Decker wounded. Lt. Beckwith also, perhaps mortally. Herbert is unhurt, so are Macy and Abbott. We have 5 Company Officers left: the Commanding Officer Macy, and Patten, the Adjutant. Gen. Howard publicly thanked Macy and the Regiment this morning.

We are ordered to the reserve and are now withdrawn to the rear.
Only picket firing to-day. I think the enemy may be retreating,
as I hear Franklin was successful on the left: As for us, it was
the slaughtering of the best troops before impregnable works. The
battle is a fair indecisive and our loss terrible.

Do not be anxious, if there is another battle we shall no doubt
be left in reserve. We have but 120 men or so left. 10th Mass: suf-
fered dreadfully. I can only thank God and pray for his protection
for the future. Be assured the 20th and the Brigade has gained
a name unequalled in the Army. Macy deserves the very highest
praise. I shall try to write fully when I can. All quiet
^{now.}

In great haste

Yours affectionate Son
Henry.

Enclosed letter from Herbert to his father.

Camp, 20th Mass.
near Falmouth
Tuesday, December 16th 1862.

My dear Father.

You see by my date that we are safe back again in our old
Camp. Having been 21 days across the river, fought two battles lived
under Artillery fire the whole time and lost one half of our men and
two thirds of our Officers. I feel I cannot be too thankful to
God for my really wonderful preservation, especially as in these ac-
tions the Officers were especially singled out. We recrossed at midnight
on the 14th without molestation. I received in the first battle a pretty
severe blow from a spent ball in the groin and narrowly escaped a very
serious injury. For some moments I was stunned, but now nothing remains
but a black and blue spot and a little stiffness of the limb. I also
got a bullet through my coat, and in the second battle one through my
coat collar just twitching my whiskers, one through my hat, one which
passed just over my shoulder and through my blanket which I had
strapped on top of that knapsack John sent me; and one on the other
side which cut off one of the small straps. Beside these I was several
times covered with mud and dirt thrown up by shot and shell. Altogether
I do not see how I escaped. The fire was perfectly terrific, every inch
of ground seemed to be struck.

On the whole we have met with a tremendous repulse and lost almost 12000 men (I hear) and all wasted. The Army is completely demoralized. The new troops behaved shamefully. Hooker's men ran by no like sheep. I saw a whole Brigade of Pennsylvania comrades (Tyler's Brigade) break and run in total disorder when they were brought up to our relief, our men cursing them most heartily; As to our Regiment its praise is in every mouth. Dana's or rather Hall's Brigade is up high enough, but the 42^d and 50th New York and the 12th ^{61st} Pennsylvania (a new Regiment) are not included in the praise. They gave way horribly, and of the 3 good Regiments, 7th Michigan, 10th and 20th Mass., the 20th is far above all. We were repulsed but the 20th got nearer the enemy than any other Regiment, and only retired by orders, and when every other Regiment had broken and fallen back. Then we rallied by a ditch and held our own till night.

I shall try to write John a long letter soon. We shall winter here.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Reg. Jan. 5 near or in Falm^o King^d

Dear Father,

I have just received your letter of the 31st.
Dec. enclosing one from sister Anna of the 26th, and
the list of contents of a valise to be sent to me by James.
Please thank sister A. I am indeed very much obliged
to you for sending me so much. Every one of the
articles will be most acceptable. We are dreadfully hard
up for food now, and today I dine on hasty pudding and
molasses in two courses in one. I am glad that
Louis is dead at Sadgwick's Hd. Qrs. Tomorrow we
expect a supply of bread, meat and flour. I am de-
lighted with the contents of the boxes and bag, the re-
ceipt of which I acknowledged in my last. You hear
of James not coming on the day appointed and I am
beginning to fear he may have given you the slip.
He ought not to have asked you for any money. He
had 80.00 in the bank - I advanced him 15.00 and
had previously advanced 10.00 more - in all 55.00 and
your 20.00 - making in all 75.00 is 5 mos. pay.
He came to me Aug 4th so he is now paid up
to Jan 4th. I agreed to pay him always when I
received my own pay - i.e. pay day. I fear he may

get hold of more money - or of clothes &c. and then never return. I never had any reason to doubt his honesty, but the temptation may be too strong for him. However, I hope it may all turn out right and James come back safely.

Better send any money by mail - small sums at a time, I think this is the safest way. Mr. Boulnois fears that some important letters he sent to Europe never were put in the post, and has been daily expecting letters from England. I told him any letters to him directed to you - you would immediately forward to my care.

To-day he accompanies Genl. Sedgwick to a review of the 2^d Brigade. I am again detailed, this time as recorder of a Court of Inquiry - a matter of only a couple of days' business. I am perfectly well. The men suffering a great deal for lack of fresh food and sufficient variety.

Diarrhoea and scurvy almost universal.

Most of the officers troubled with diarrhoea also. I do better for I try to get a change of diet as often as possible, and frequently succeed. Capt. Tilden is really very ill.

Holmes has gone to Hospital in Washington quite used up. Herbert very well.

The men are getting comfortably quartered, and are much more cheerful than they were a few weeks ago. I want to write several letters abroad when I can get some thin paper.

Your affec. son
Henry

Letter for J. C.
enclosed.

Wm. Ropes. Esq.

Camp 20th Mass. Volunteers
Sunday, January 18th 1863.

My dear Father.

I have just received your letter of the 14th. I have not yet received the valise, but expect it daily, as the Quartermaster has sent down a man for Express baggage to Aquia Creek. I received duly your letter containing a list of Articles in the valise. As to our moving I hear to-day that only a reconnaissance was intended, and that we may go to-morrow. I hope it is not so, for of all military duties I dislike these most. You get generally no sleep at night and march all day, and are every moment on the alert, and half the time out skirmishing in front and on the flanks, and when you do rest often can have no fires. As we did not go yesterday however I hardly think we shall go at all. Such things must be done secretly. We have Genl. Couch now, a very careful and able Officer.

I have no doubt I have often written too freely about the General. &c. and will take care in future not to do so. Opinions are expressed with great freedom here, and often most emphatically even by those of very high rank.

Reverens has certainly done very well in the West, but I am astonished to see how easily every one at home draws the conclusion that he is such a great General for a large Army. Burnside was an excellent

General for North Carolina. Hooker and Franklin are excellent Commanders of Corps, but to handle 130,000 men is quite another question. Halleck and Mc. Clellan are the only Generals who have tried to manage a large Army, and I am sure the former did not show remarkable ability or alacrity at Vicksburg. It is hard for any one who has never been with an Army to understand how long it takes to move and what a vast undertaking it is. You can only compare it to the motions of the planets and stars. To a child, for instance, it is hard to teach that the earth takes a whole year to go once round the sun and yet that the earth goes very rapidly.

Now we must fight with large armies for we are opposed by large armies, and no dashing General of small ability to take in a vast field, however energetic he may be, can accomplish much. Now it seems to me that Mc. Clellan is the only man who has ever attempted large movements, such as the advance of 120,000 men via Yorktown and the flank movement of Mc. Dowell and 50,000 men from Fredericksburg taking in all this and the vast quantity of lesser things such as the cooperation of the fleet. Mc. Halleck and Burnside can command large Armies while they lay still but they either fail or accomplish nothing when they attempt to move.

I hope you have carefully followed the cases of Mc. Dowell and Porter and read the evidence, especially Mc. Clellan's evidence.

To me it is conclusive. I think it is fairly shown that as far as it is possible to speak of certainty in human affairs, that Me. Ellan would certainly have taken Richmond and utterly defeated the whole Rebel Army of the East in June last had he been left alone. I also think from what I learn from Generals and Officers here, that Me. Ellan would have utterly destroyed the Rebel Army at Culpepper in November last had he not been removed. I feel sure this will all come out by and by. For a long time nobody admitted that Me. Ellan ever was near taking Richmond in June, now few deny it. I feel most fully that Me. Ellan is the man and the only man for us, and I fear that less able men may bring the country to the brink of ruin before the Administration acknowledge their error, and call back the man who has twice saved the Capitol and twice had his hand upon the Capitol of the enemy. If I am right, then the responsibility those look who first interfered with him and then removed him is dreadful indeed.

It almost makes me sick to read the reports of Congress and to read the violent speeches of men about the Army, about abolishing West Point &c. It seems as if the men were mad. To West Point we owe it that we have an Army at all. I hope for better things from the new Congress.

The weather cold but pleasant. I am perfectly well as usual. I have just heard a sermon at Brigade Headquarters preached in the open air to a large number of Officers and men, by Lieut. Childs.

I do not know where he has flown. Simon was very good indeed. I
hear that Regiments near us are being paid off to-day and hope
our turn will soon come.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

J. S.

January 18th 1863.

Dear Father.

To accommodate Capt. Macy in the present uncertain state of the mails, and for my own convenience in case we are not paid for a long time, I have just drawn on you for Fifty Dollars and received the same from him.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp 20th Mass. Volunteers
Falmouth, Va.
January 19th 1863.

My dear Father.

Your letter of the 15th just received. I am much disappointed at not getting my valise last evening especially as I wrote to get his valise and box, the latter of which was only sent on the 13th (I think). I cannot see what detained mine. I shall write immediately to Adams & Co. in Washington to forward it.

Please let me know what other boxes or parcels if any - are on the way. I received about 2 weeks ago a bag containing - Blankets and Clothes, a box, sent by S. F. Grafton, and a box sent by you containing a new light bulb &c. Mother wrote to me that she had sent a small covered grocery dish, and you do not mention this as being in the valise so I thought there must be another package of some kind.

I went to you yesterday and told you I had signed a draft of Forty Dollars on you, payable to order of Capt. Tracy. It was a great convenience to him, and I was very glad to receive the money to keep in case of need, although I did not absolutely need it because I had just received \$20.00 from John in a letter.

This morning was the day it was seen we were to begin our march,

but all is quiet and there is no sign of a move. Weather still very cold. Thermometer say 20° at night, but sun very powerful at midday. Roads of course very bad. Before sunrise to-day a Regiment passed to the front with Spades, Axes &c. so I suppose at last the exposed state of our flank here has been noticed and it is to be protected. Our pickets are about one mile out from this camp and several Regiments camped not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the pickets. The enemy could cross the river for 6 miles above any night, especially a foggy or rainy night, and drive our feeble pickets back into these advanced Regiments in 20 minutes from the first shot, and in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour they could be upon us all, entirely uncovered and unprepared. There is no arrangement for defence in which a serious preparation at all. Now I hope they are going to fortify. Abbott first called my attention to this exposed condition of the flank some days ago. When we were at Fair Oaks, and even lately, at Bolivar, the pickets were farther out and were strongly supported, and also standing orders were given to the Regiments in Camps where exactly to form, and what to do in case of an attack. I have no doubt if Burnside does fortify, the old cry of Spades and Axes will be raised as it was against McClellan. You speak of the shameful surprises of our Western Armies. There is no excuse whatever for it. If pickets are properly posted and supported a Camp cannot be surprised. But nothing is so good as a few field works. I cannot see why it is not best to make every position as strong as it possibly can be made. We can learn this from our enemies.

Frank's letter was enclosed in yours. I shall answer him without
delay.

Very affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Reg. near Falmouth
Va. Jan. 23, 1863.

My dear Father.

This morning the troops are all coming back. The whole thing is an utter failure. The troops suffered awfully and when they got up to the place where they expected to cross found the Rebels fully prepared and so strongly entrenched that it would have been madness to have attacked. Our entire pontoon train, and a great part of the artillery, is left in the mud. I hope the rebels cannot cross and get possession of it. The men came straggling by this morning. They are half starved, for provisions could not be got up. Dr. Breckore of the 37th Mass. stopped and told us about it. He says he thinks 8000 will hardly cover the number this short march will use up by sickness in his G. I. (Franklin's). Burnside rode along yesterday and was followed by shooting and jells. The troops are in a dreadful state. Our loss in sick and in horses and mules will be very great, but the utter demoralization of the Army is the worst. Our G. I. was held in reserve,

so we have been saved this fearful exposure. Every one expected this result, for there was every sign of a heavy N.E. storm when they started. As far as I have heard every General was opposed to Burnside's plan, and I know that they feel very much disheartened. We cannot be too thankful that the storm prevented an then awful sacrifice of human life, although the misery and suffering that this march has already occasioned is immense, and of a kind which the people outside will hear little of.

Burnside has now been in command nearly 3 months. He has marched about 20 miles - sacrificed uselessly about 30,000 men in all and brought the Army to the verge of mutiny and the Country to the worst state it has ever been in.

What next the President will do, no one can see, but certainly it will take 2 or 3 weeks to get this Army together and able to do any thing. If the President drives the Army to extremities the most dreadful consequences may follow. The hatred to him is universal, and they feel that his ignorant

interference has been the cause of all their sufferings and defeats.

This morning it is clearing up and promises fair weather. No letters from home for two days. Sermon about Maj. Willard received today.

Your affec. son
Henry

P. S.

Capt. Holmes arrived in camp last night, very well.

(1)

Camp 20th Mass. near Falmouth
Va. Jan. 24, 1863 Sat.

My dear Father,

I hasten to acknowledge your letter of Jan 20th and the \$10.00 enclosed - all right. I am indeed very much obliged to you for supplying me so fully with money, which I certainly should have needed but for the recent receipt of \$20.00 from John, and the draft of 40.00 on Capt. May which I wrote to you about. At last however our

Paymaster has come, and to day pays us up to Nov. 1. 1862 4 months. I get \$416.00 The extra pay for 1st Lt. and for command of Co. will come in next time. The Paymaster returns immedi^{ately} to Wash^{on} to get money for the next 3 months. Then I get \$200. more. In all \$652.00. Beside that I have about \$50.00 here now. I expect to send home of this 4 months pay \$200.00 about enough to cover what I have over drawn. I shall wait for a safe conveyance.

All is quiet here. Weather fine and warm. The more I hear of our late move, the more I see what a desperate thing it would have been. The enemy - unlike our present commander - are sure to spend every moment of spare time in digging, and although we marched 5 or 6 miles up the river, every available place was fortified and protected by rifle pits which would have been about as difficult to take as the old works were. Generals Lee and McCollum were alike in this thing - wherever they stopped, they fortified. They were not afraid of the cry against grades and mud.

I cannot but hope that it is at last proved that this Army must rest and recruit. An army cannot fight constantly for 10 months, unless in a constant succession of victories with small loss. Every General has wintered his troops, and unless this Army is rested and supplied with comforts, it will be useless in the Spring.

I hope to get a letter from John tomorrow and hear how Mr. Boulnois is. A man has gone down to Aquia Creek today for express baggage, and I hope to get the valises.

I fear many of my letters miscarry. Cannot you number your letters to me? If it would not be much trouble I should like it, for I then could tell when a letter miscarried. I shall begin to number mine to you, and therefore put a "1" on the first page. Best love to mother.

Your affec. son
Henry.

Wm. Ropes Esq.

Salmon, Va.
January 26th 1863.

My dear Father.

I cannot tell you how glad I was to see Joseph, totally unexpected, yesterday morning at a very early hour. Rev. Mr. Means of Roxbury came with him. They breakfasted in my hut and soon after we got an order to prepare to march immediately and to go to Salmon, to relieve the Regiment now on duty there as Provost Guards to the town. So here we are and very comfortable in a good room looking out on the river, with a nice view of the Rebel pickets. Our men are quite well off in houses and we Officers hire very nice rooms. Mason and I have a good upper room together, with Abbott, Willard and the Quartermaster. Bloom in the lower room. So we are very comfortably situated indeed, and are no doubt to remain a long time. Joseph is very well. He will stay for 5 or 6 days. Thank you very much indeed for the nice contents of the valise. It is most acceptable. I shall keep Joseph as long as I can.

To-day we have the news of Hooker's appointment and the displacement of Burnside, Franklin and Sumner. Thus we lose 3 good Division Generals, and gain a doubtful Chief. I dare say Hooker will attempt some game move. I have ^{little} confidence in his honesty of purpose and fear he may risk all to gain a great name. Joseph

desires me to say he may be a day in Washington on his return and
so not in Philadelphia till the end of the week or beginning of next.
Received \$ 10.00 and Stamps from J. C. - Have been paid off and
shall send home money by Joseph.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

20th Mass. Falmouth Va. Jan 30. 1863.

My dear Father.

Brother Joseph left me this morning by the first train, after a very pleasant visit only too short. I enjoyed his stay exceedingly, and I think he had a pleasant time, and liked the officers here very much. They were all delighted with him, and enjoyed his good spirits and his jokes and conversation exceedingly. He has left behind a character for ability, especially for Finance matters which would be very flattering for him to hear of. Every body was delighted to hear him talk on business &c.

He was to stop at Aquia Creek and see about my valise, and I am happy to say, it came on this afternoon, no doubt hastened by his enquiries.

I am sorry to say, the bottle of Sherry was broken and lost but did no injury to other things. In the can of fresh peaches there was a small puncture, as if made with a knife point through which some of the juice had run out, but has done no damage.

M. A's vest soaked it up, and this is to be washed. I was astonished to find this damage, and also to observe that the other tin cans were bent up, but

I see that when things are packed in a valise or bag they must be very carefully protected. The leather sides probably were jammed together. Bottles &c. are safer in a wooden box. Thousands of bottles and tins containing every kind of liquid are coming on every day, and I never heard of much damage to goods, so do not think it dangerous even to send liquids, but only let them be packed in a box, not anything that can be squeezed.

Comparing with your list of the contents I find all right, and besides my watch, apparently in perfect order, a quantity of religious tracts, some raisins, fine sugar, a crockery dish, cover, plate, cup and saucer. The saucer was broken, all the rest safe.

I am indeed exceedingly obliged to you and to mother for these luxuries which I enjoy very much, and which probably add more to my comfort than you imagine, being at home accustomed to regular and good food, and constantly feeling that it is in your power to get almost anything. I never received a package of any kind from home better selected than this and I anticipate a great deal of comfort and enjoyment in its use. The coat came perfectly safe, and is a perfect fit exactly

as I wanted it - could not be better. Please to thank Mother especially for her nice gingerbread, and M. A. for the rest. I have no particular news to tell. Jos. will tell you what weather and mud we have, and I think his evidence will satisfy any fair man that to move is impossible. I have heard two excellent things of Genl. Hosker, 1st that he made it a condition that he should be perfectly untrammelled by the President, 2^d that he has given orders to Div. Commanders to grant a reasonable number of leaves of absence and furloughs - thus pretty plainly saying that we are to remain here. I think the prospect of rest and the removal of B. has produced a better feeling already in the Army. Bro. J. will tell you how comfortably off we are here, in good rooms, perfectly sheltered. My window looks right out on the river, the enemy's pickets and rifle pits as near as Cambridge bridge is from our back windows, but no firing. The river is rising and is already quite a torrent. I forgot to mention the scarf in the valise. Thank you very much for the most excellent paper and envelopes in the valise Jos. brought. Best loves to Mother

Wm. Ropes Esq.

Your affec. son
Henry

20th Mass. Baltimore, Pa.
Sunday, February 8th 1863.

My dear Father.

I have received no letters from home for several days. My leave of absence of eight days has come, and I expect to start to-morrow morning and hope that John will come on and meet me in Baltimore.

Brother Joseph has arrived home I suppose and has told John of my plan.

I feel that I may not be able to see John or any one for - I cannot tell how long - as we are no doubt to begin a new campaign in a month, and so I feel very anxious to see John once more.

Major March left for Boston yesterday. I hope you may meet him, for he is a noble fellow and commanded the Regiment finely in the late battles. He is one of my best friends here.

Best love to mother and all. I hope to write next from Baltimore.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Columen's Eutaw House, Baltimore February 10th 1863
Monday.

My dear Father.

I have just received yours of the 1stth. John and I leave this morning for Washington and I expect to be in camp to-morrow evening. I am sorry the Killet &c. was not sent on here, as I have arranged to carry on anything to the Camp. Please tell mother I cannot get good shirts here, and ask her to send me 2 like the last. When the box can come right on by Express. I shall be very much delighted with the contents of the box as John describes it. I have laid in a good stock of Groceries, &c. here.

We have been treated most kindly by Mr. Geimell my classmate's father, by the Keithlers and by Mr. Jacobson. The Keithlers are Secedionists as are almost all the first people socially here, but we dined there and had a delightful time. They all were very kind. Love to mother. We leave in a few moments. Better send on any box to the Camp, direct. Shall write and thank Brother Joseph for his munificent present.

Your affectionate son

Wm. Cary.

Manning is all right. Dr. Jeffries' certificate is sufficient. I should think it was only necessary to notify the Dr. of the Hospital from which he came.

20th Mass., Falmouth, Va.
February 22^d 1863.

My dear Father.

I have received your letter of February 18th and the one you sent to the Eutaw House which was sent on. I am sorry you did not send the box on direct to the Camp, or else to me at Baltimore earlier but I think it is of no consequence, for I have written to have it brought on here by Express and the Express matter is daily expected.

I shall be very much obliged for the contents, especially for the Killet. If I had known I was to go to Baltimore, I would not have troubled you with so many things. I got a very large supply of Groceries, canned Vegetables, Wine &c. in Baltimore not only for myself, but to be divided among the others and found an excellent place there (recommended by Mr. Jacobson) where everything was reasonable in price and good in quality. They packed all up in 2 barrels and I got it safely through though with a good deal of trouble. Capt. Robinson, Assistant Quartermaster at Washington treated me very kindly and through him I got transportation for all that I had bought, and for a box and barrel for Herbert and a barrel for myself from Adams Express Office. Capt. Robinson knew you and said his father knew you, and that he had been for some years in business on Commercial Wharf, Boston.

^{2nd copy of the same.}
Better be careful to do everything in the regular way.

M. R.

20th Mass. Volunteers
Salmon, Va. February 23^d 1863.

My dear Father.

I have just received yours of the 10th. I do not think there is any danger that I shall not get the box you sent. I left my address at the Culshaw House and received from there your letter which arrived after I left. I have written to Harnden's Express and expect the box very soon.

Please ask Brother Joseph to thank the Rev. Mr. Means for a copy of a sermon on the death of Lt. Newcomb 10th Mass. which I found here for me on my return and which I suppose he sent. Cold weather, deep snow. All well.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Enclosed a letter for Frank and one for my friend Curtis, to be left at No. 4 State St.

H. R.

Falmouth, Va.
February 26th 1863.

My dear Father.

I have just received your letter telling me of another box containing shirts, Sherry wine, Lemons &c. which you have sent by Merriam's Express, and for which I am very much obliged. I hope to get both boxes very soon.

All quiet here. Heavy rains and deep mud. Received letter from Mary Ann with yours. We have had deep snow, but it is now almost gone.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

20th Mass. Salmouth, Va.
March 3^d 1863.

My dear Father.

The Express matter for the Corps has come, and I have received the box of poultry sent by Beecher Joseph, and I am sorry to say it was totally unfit for use. One man said that perhaps the poultry would have kept had the dealer first taken out the entrails of the fowls, which he did not do. I am indeed very sorry to lose such an addition to our fare, but it cannot be helped now. The box you sent to Baltimore has been taken again by Marcilio's Express, but was too late for this trip. The last box is probably now at Washington. I do not expect to get either box for some weeks, unless I have some chance of sending privately. I am very sorry these boxes should just have missed, but they are no doubt all safe and will turn up by and by.

Adjutant Tatten of our Regiment has just gone home, and has taken several little things for me. He is a most excellent fellow in every way, was the intimate friend of St. Lowell both in College and in the Regiment, and I think if you met him you will like him very much. He has been in all our battles and has once been wounded. I asked him to call at the house. While he is away I am acting as Adjutant. The weather and roads are improving, but still we have frequent rainstorms and deep mud. Herbert Mason expects soon to go

home for 10 days. Everything is quiet here and there is nothing new.

Your affectionate son
Wm. J. D.

The vegetables were all in good order & gave our half to Capt. Collins as John requested. We are now well supplied in every way. Yesterday was a warm pleasant day. To-day we have a fast and half of snow, and it is still snowing hard. It is just like New England weather. As to Mrs. Humphrey and her box, I know nothing of her coming till I received your letter just now. I have heard indirectly that her husband was discharged, and if so, he has probably gone home. When last I heard from him certainly, he was almost well and able to be about. I do not think his wife has any reason to be anxious about his health.

I have received 3 recruits and 4 returned sick men, so my Company now makes quite a respectable show. I have now two boxes on the way, Joseph's present of Poultry and your last box. I will let you know as soon as I get them.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

20th Mass. Volunteers

Palmouth, March 14th 1863.

My dear Father.

I have to acknowledge yours of March 8th and one letter from Mother dated March 11th, also one from Sissy dated Albino. I am very glad to hear that you have passed so pleasant a week. I am glad to hear that Southwicks is so much better. Your dinner party must have been a very pleasant one. Talten will be back in a few days and will tell me all about it. I am glad you saw him, for he is a most excellent fellow and a very good friend of mine. Dr. Lawrence's one Surgeon, has just come home on leave. He is one of our oldest Officers, and has always done well in the Regiment. We all esteem him very highly. I hope you will manage to see him. As to the shirts Mother wrote about, I dare say Talten, Herbert or the Dr. will bring them on with pleasure. I am very sorry to lose so much out of the box that was broken open. I think you had better have an other box you may send well bound round the edges with iron hoop or rattan, and firmly nailed. The Express runs regularly now and we all bag and carry 3 or 4 days. As soon however as there is the least prospect of a move, I suppose it will be stopped. There was a rumor that the Rebels were about to make a raid on our right the other day, but it did not come to anything. We had orders to hold ourselves in readiness. Croker

is doing a great deal to improve the Army. Our flank has been solidified. Provisions are plenty and stores of all kinds are brought up and everything is done to make the troops more comfortable. A Board of examination for incompetent Officers has been established, a thing much needed. The Army will be in excellent condition by the time that the roads are dry enough for travel.

Weather is cold again, with frequent snow squalls. Roads have frozen. All well.

We had a fire night before last, and a house was burnt down, but all the property saved, and all the outbuildings and machine houses. Capt. Mearns and Lieutenants Hibbard and Kelliher roomed in this house. If we could have got ladders we could have put it out, for there were plenty of men to pass water, but it began in an upper room, and the smoke was so dense they could not get at it before it got fairly started, and then we only attempted to save everything we could.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Enclosed letter for M. A. R.

Memorandum of Articles sent to Henry in a Box

March, 20th 1863.

3 Mince Pies and 6 Tin Plates (to cover)

1 Can Raspberry Jam 1 Qt.

1 " Ginger preserved 1 "

3 lbs. crushed Sugar (white)

1 " Tea (English Breakfast)

1 box Figs about 3 lbs.

2 cans Milk

1 " Coffee ground, Java 5 lbs.

1 " 2 Qt. Orange Marmalade

1 lb. dried Ginger (preserved)

1 Bologne Sausage for trial

1 Sugar cured Tongue (cooked)

1 bottle Sherry Wine

1 small do. Cherry Cordial

filled up with Apples and Gingerbread.

Directed to Lt. Henry Ropes,

20th Regiment Mass. Volunteers,

3^d Brigade, 2^d Corps, 2^d Division,

Wilmington, Va.



Falmouth, Pa.

Wednesday, March 25th 1863.

My dear Father.

I received last evening your letter dated 20th containing the receipt for the box and the list of ^{its} contents.

I am indeed very much obliged to you for these nice things. I shall enjoy them all very much, especially the Pie and Marmalade. The Pie made by the people here are horrible things and I shall be delighted to taste a sample of home cooking. They do not know how to cook anything but meat in the South.

Herbert has just been so fortunate as to get a box of Poultry, Vegetables, & Butter &c. in perfect condition just a week from Boston. So when our box comes we shall have a real Christmas dinner.

We all are deeply grieved at the death of Genl. Sumner, our old Commander. He is a great loss to the Army for there must be some such fearless man to use on an emergency. I do not know any one who can supply his place.

St. Bowditch's death is very sad. I hear it was a capital hand to hand fight. Bowditch received several sabre cuts and was finally shot in the stomach. Our Cavalry seem to have done well.

Herbert and I are to have the use of an old horse on the march and expect to be quite comfortable. We see no signs of a snow, but as it is

now a month later than "Slow" Mc. Callan's advance last year, I suppose
we may go very suddenly. We are fortifying Neenah Creek, and
this leads me to think that the army is to move by water, in which case
we may be left here or at Nequia Creek.

As I am out of stamps I shall have to post this letter.

Your affectionate son
Henry

Wilmington, N.C.
March 28th 1863.

My dear Father,

I have received your letter of March 24th enclosing a letter from Frank. I received and acknowledged some days ago your letter containing the receipt for the box by Carnahan's Express and a list of the contents of the box. I am very sorry to have lost so many letters as you say you have sent, and hope I may get them at last. I always acknowledge letters I receive and will in future note the date of letters I write to you and to the others, and be sure you will acknowledge and receive. Thus I shall know what ones of mine misdeared. I found it very inconvenient to number letters, although it is a good plan, but when one writes so hastily as I often must one is apt to forget to number.

I have heard that Mannican and Rumphrey are discharged, and if so both will probably draw their pay in Washington and repay you your loans. I am glad to hear that we are soon to be paid up to March 1st.

The Christian Commission have now opened a Room in an old Mill here and have daily prayer meetings and preaching once a week. There is quite a good Minister here, and the meetings are all well attended. Last Sunday the Major and 3 of us Officers went, but usually there are but few Officers. We have rather improve

In our long rest, and the Regiment more was so clean, orderly and healthy. Col. Hall has come back as a temporary command of our Brigade. Gen. Kenner is in command of Siegel's Corps, and Gen. Gibbon has our Division. Gen. Gibbon is considered a fine Officer. There are no signs of a move yet. Continual rain for 5 days or so has brought back the deep mud. Herbert and I are to send home our buffaloes and a box of baggage which we could not carry. I have directed both to you and will put in the box a list of Herbert's things. I enclose a letter for Mary Ann.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Salmonville, Va. March 31st 1863.

My dear Father.

I received last evening the box sent last by Harnden's Express. The contents were all right, nothing injured or broken and all most acceptable. I found the tongue very delicious and the pie a greater luxury than I have enjoyed for a very long time. I never received a box in which everything was better packed, nor one which was better filled. I am indeed very much obliged to you and to Mother for it. The preserves I have not opened, but the Marmalade is very nice. The tins cans I shall find very useful after I have used their contents. The Cherry Cordial and Bologna Sausage I shall keep for the march.

Yesterday was so warm and pleasant that we thought Summer had really come, but to-day we have snow and sleet and mud again.

We are expecting a move very soon, but it appears likely that our Corps will remain to cover this front and conceal our movement from the enemy, in whatever direction the Army goes. I hear there is to be a strong raid made from our right up the river.

Krook's army is now very large, fully 130,000 men for only, and well supplied. It seems to be the general opinion that he will move secretly down the river - cross say 10 miles below under cover of the quiboats and men on the enemy's communications with Richmond. But it is also thought that the enemy are not in strong force opposite

us, and are ready to withdraw to Richmond when we move.

I cannot but think that the enemy will be obliged to transfer the seat of war to Kentucky before long.

I am a little afraid they will abandon Vicksburg and fall on Rosecrans with overwhelming forces. I think they will try this sooner than leave Virginia, but if not successful in such a move I think they will abandon Virginia too and stake everything on a campaign in Kentucky. Burnside and his Corps have gone West, I see.

There seems to be a good deal of delay about Charleston and Vicksburg, but I suppose we are all waiting for one another, and when dry weather sets in there will be a pretty general waking up.

I have received no letters since I last wrote, but several papers.

Yours affectionate son
Henry.

Talmouth, Pa.

April 1th 1863.

My dear Father.

I received last evening the box containing the Coal, Pickles &c. all in perfect order. I acknowledged some time ago the receipt of the box of Apples, Peaches, &c.

Ell is quiet and no sign of a move. Please give the enclosed note to John.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Tadmouth,
April 17th 1863.

My dear Father.

I received yesterday yours of the 13th. I think the buffaloes must have come safely, for Herbert's family have received his and you allude to mine. I enclose letters to Mary Ann Frank and Lizzy, the last two on the thin paper you sent me some time since and which I find most excellent. I am very glad my last boxes came to hand so promptly and was delighted with the contents.

We are quiet yet, and it is said that the recent storm and rise of the river has prevented Hooker from carrying out his plans. The weather is now very cloudy and threatening. The river has gone down some three feet, but is still very high.

Capt. Abbott enjoyed his visit to you very much. Holmes is very sorry he was unable to go. I have sent home a second box and have everything ready for a move. We are all for every eight days rations, I hardly see how it is possible. Our horse will be very useful.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Fredericksburg,
Sunday evening, May 3. 1863.

My dear Father.

We have won a great victory and taken the heights by storm.
I was not much exposed and am unhurt. Melrose probably loses his leg,
and Murphy is wounded in the arm. Total loss of the Regiment
1st killed and wounded. We were exposed only to artillery fire.
After charging the enemy 2 or 3 miles we returned here. All quiet.
We have taken guns &c and quantities of provisions. Our Division,
Sedgewick's old one, did the business. Loss not very heavy, enemy in
small force. Have heard of no injuries to friends. Herbert all right.
Have heard nothing of the severe battle on the right.

Yours truly

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Vermouth, Vt. Tuesday,
May 5th 1863 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ A.M.

My dear Father.

We are back at our old quarters again, safe and well. After
crossing the river on Sunday we assisted in taking the works here,
and advanced 2 miles beyond Vicksburg, driving the enemy.
Sedgwick pushed on and our Brigade with a few of the 6th Corps
went back to the City, supposing all was well and the great battle
won. To our infinite surprise the enemy rushed in from the left and
retook the entire lines on Monday morning. The pickets rushed in,
and for a few moments we had a wild time of it, but our Regiment mo-
ved out and held the town and repulsed the enemy. I never passed so
anxious and trying a time: our line was weak and the men scattered.
There was a most desperate assault from the farther side in the after-
noon, and again the Rebels were driven out and their entire pieces
by Sedgwick, but they held the heights on their right and Sedgwick
was at last repulsed. This morning at daybreak we withdrew from
the town, our Regiment covering the retreat and crossing last. Alto-
gether we have lost only 2 officers and 17 men, but the experience
of these whole 3 days has been far more trying than in any battle
we were ever in before. Nelson and Murphy are wounded, not
dangerously, I hear. On the right I hear the fighting has been awful

beyond description, and the number of Killed and wounded on both sides perfectly terrific. I can learn no particulars. I fear we are retreating, and have been outmaneuvered, but our men fought splendidly and we have probably given the enemy a terrible loss. We have taken Guns &c. and I hear have lost some.

You will probably learn particulars sooner than I. I fear we have met with an awful repulse and that the Enemy is almost cut to pieces. However the enemy are so badly off. I cannot well see how our Regiment suffered so little. Our escapes were wonderful. We have done most trying duty which nothing but Veteran troops could have done, and if we have not been so badly cut up as others, we have that to be thankful for. Herbert all well. No one of my Company hurt.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Yalmouth, Va.

June 5th 1863

Saturday 8. A.M.

My dear Father.

Both the boxes came safely yesterday, and I enjoy their contents very much. Everything was in good order. Yesterday P.M. we put bridges across below the city, and Sedgwick opened artillery and sent a small body of men over, who discovered a few rebel pickets. We were ordered to be ready to march at daylight to-day, but the order was countermanded. There has been an occasional gun this morning. The Rebels are moving troops to their right. I rather think this move is to draw them off from our right, where they had concentrated a large force. They now occupy the heights in force. Still quiet here. All well. Herbert's things all came safely.

Y
Your affectionate son.

Henry.

Near Fairfax Station, Va.
June 18th 1863.
10 A.M.

My dear Father.

We left Richmond on Monday last at 5 A.M., our Brigade covering the retreat and camped that evening 7 miles South of Lumpkin. We marched through the heat of the day and lost a great many men by sunstroke. The thermometer was about 100° Fahrenheit, and the dust terrible. Twelve men of our Division fell dead by the roadside, and hundreds are disabled. Tuesday was a cooler day and we marched from 3 A.M. till 10 P.M. and camped for the night at Coquemos Creek. Yesterday we marched here and are on the Railroad about 3 miles farther West than Fairfax Station. Sedgwick is 2½ miles East of us. We have seen nothing of the enemy. The weather is awfully hot, and we have been marched so far and so recklessly that about one fifth of our men are disabled. We hear the Rebels are making a case to Sumterville, but I do not believe they intend another real invasion, or that they intend to attack us here. I expect all will be quiet in a week. Both Herbert and myself are perfectly well and are uninjured by the heat. Dr. Terry has met with a severe accident and is going home. He has been kicked him and broke his leg. We are very sorry for him and very sorry to lose him.

I think we may stay here some time. The Surgeons have made such representations to the Quarter Masters that I think we shall not be again marched between 11 and 1 O'clock in such Indian heat. All is quiet. All friends well. Col. Dwyer was used up for a time but is well now.

Please ask John to send me by mail one of the little cork hat cushions I saw in Boston, to be put in the hat to prevent Sunstroke. I have received no letters from home yet since we left Falmouth.

Your affectionate Son
Henry

Centerville, Va.
Saturday, June 20th 1863
9. A.M.

My dear Father.

We marched here yesterday afternoon from the point near Rappahannock Station, or rather between Widesax Station and Saxe Station, from which place I wrote to you on the 18th. All is quiet. We occupy the earth works here. Most of the Army has marched on towards Leeburg here. All well. Have had much rain. Weather cloudy and cool. We cannot tell how long we are to be here.

Love to all.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Thoroughfare Gap.
Sunday, June 21st 1863.
8 A.M.

My dear Father,

I wrote you last from Centerville. We left there yesterday at 1 P.M. and marched over the old Bull Run battle field through the little villages of Fairview and Hammett, and halted for the night a mile beyond the latter place. This morning we marched on to the Gap, and are halted here and about to breakfast. I knew nothing of our future movements. All well. No signs of the enemy.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Monday 22^d 6 P.M.

Still here at the Gap and in position. All quiet.

Affectionate
Henry.

Near Frederick Md.

Mon. June 29, 1863 8 A.M. -

My dear Father

I wrote last from Edwards ferry to John. We marched thence on Sat. at 5 P.M. and at midnight reached a spot 20 miles beyond Barret-town, where we slept till 5 A.M. and then marched here arriving at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

We expect to march from here very soon toward Baltimore. The march has been miserably conducted, thus far - roads blocked with trains and we detained for hours, and moving at a snail's pace, and thus using up time we much need for sleep. Genl Hancock is utterly regardless of the comfort of the men, and orders us to fall in, hours before it is time, and then attempts to keep up so close to the trains that our march is like people coming out of a crowded church aisle. It has rained almost constantly for 4 days. We were awakened this morning for instance and ordered to be ready to move at daylight, and now it is past 8 there is no sign of a start. The men are deprived of their much needed sleep, and time to wash,

all by this carelessness.

We were all delighted yesterday afternoon to hear of Hooker's removal and hope well for Meade and at the same time cannot but think that this presages better things yet. I hear the rebel cavalry have been to Tinallytown 6 miles from Washington. I cannot but hope that all this mismanagement will yet be set right and a General put in the supreme command who knows something more than how to "move over the enemy's works." The rejoicing at Hooker's removal is very general and all are hoping for Whelan before long.

In haste

Tr. affec. Son
Henry.

Tuesday, 30th June 1863
9 A.M.
near Uniontown, Md.

My dear Father.

I met last year our Camp of a steady morning near Frederick at the Monocacy bridge. We marched thence yesterday at 8.30 A.M., and after a perfectly tremendous forced march of 30 miles we got here at 8.30 P.M. last evening. We had a few halts of not more than 10 minutes each. This was all, and we marched very fast, and the weather was rainy and very hot. I believe it was absolutely necessary to hold this place. No signs of the enemy. All well. We passed through the towns of Liberty, Johnsville and Uniontown.

Affectionately,
Henry.



Wachusett House, Princeton

April 22^d 1859 3 O'Cl. P.M.

My dear Mother,

I arrived yesterday in Worcester at 10 O'Cl. and staid here as there was no stage connection to Princeton till then. I dined at the Bay State House, an excellent hotel, and walked all over the city. At 4 past 4 O'clock I rode in the cars to Cat Lake and then in a stage-wagon over a very hilly road to this house. I am the only boarder at the house - fare good - room clean and good. This morning I walked 11 miles to a very pretty lake where I hired a boat and rowed about. This is a town consisting of hills and valleys - no level ground, not much woods, but nearly all cultivated. If, after receiving Mr. Willard's letter I should determine to stay here for 2 or 3 weeks, I should try to get a room and board in some farm house. As yet the country is barren and there is some snow in the mountains. To-day it is cloudy, with East - and it has just begun to rain. I have not yet ascended Mount Wachusett. Old Mr. Russell of our church came from here and his house has been pointed out to me. Let me know if you hear anything from Medford. There are 3 churches here within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. We go to bed when it gets dark and then breakfast at about 9 O'Cl. so I expect that my eyes will soon be well.

Your affectionate son
Henry Lopes.

5th Avenue Hotel

Sunday, P. M. December 29th 1861.

My dear Mother.

In my letter to Father I have said that my journey here was safe and pleasant and that I expect to go on to-morrow. I have passed a very pleasant day with Mr. & Mrs. Dea & Martha quite lively and the children well. Please tell Zizzie I have delivered her note and passed to Martha. I walked after church with Mr. Dea & to and about the New Central Church. It is quite cold to-day and we came back with fine appetites for an excellent dinner.

I think the Sleeping Cars are much the most comfortable means of transportation. I took off my boots and hat, put on my knit sleeping cap, wrapped my feet in a blanket and was perfectly comfortable. The ventilation is excellent.

I have heard two good sermons from Dr. Adams. I may not be able to write from Washington, but shall take the earliest opportunity at the Camp, where I expect to be on Tuesday evening.

With love to all

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

National Hotel
Washington, December 30th 1861.

My dear Mother.

I passed a comfortable night in New York, and got up to a 5/2 O'cl. breakfast, this morning. The coach left the Hotel at 9, and the Ferry left at 9, the two starting as soon as we got well settled and comfortably in our seats. We rode till about 6 O'cl. without getting out except to change cars or for a moment at a station. I did not have time to go and see Keighlee in Baltimore. All the way from Harre de Grace there are troops guarding the railroad and bridges. Here in the City there are Cavalry patrols, and there was a guard at the Station. It was dark when I arrived and I have only seen a small part of the city and that by gaslight. It is perfectly full of soldiers and Officers and the Hotels crowded. I do expect to go up to Poolesville to-night but I have engaged passage in the first one to-morrow which leaves at 8 and expects to arrive at 5 P.M. Although I rode steadily in the cars from 7 A.M. till 6 P.M., and ate nothing nor drank between 1/2 past 5 A.M. and 7 P.M. yet I felt perfectly well and felt neither tired nor unpleasantly hungry. I have had no trouble at all with my baggage, and expect to have none. I shall not have time to call on Mrs. Morris here. At Philadelphia I did not stop but rode through the city, with the

other passengers in horse cars. Please send me one or two of my
card photographs when they are done. As to distributing some
among college friends, better leave it all to John, who can do it
through Magellane or Winnett.

Give my love to them all and believe me

Your affectionate son
Henry Lopez.

Camp Benton, Sunday
January 5th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I received last night an envelope containing your letter of January 2nd, one from Father of the same date, one from Lizzie without date, and a note directed to "Mrs. C. R. Pease." Please thank all, and say that I have sent the letter to Martha from here by mail, as I suppose it was put in by mistake. I also received last night letters from Mary Ann of the date December 30th. These should have come to hand before, as I received letters from John and Mary Ann dated January 1st, several days ago. I suppose they were delayed at Camp till it was known to what Company I was assigned. Please mention to Mary Ann that I received her letter of Jan^y 1st before that of December 30th. I have received no papers. They tell me papers are much delayed when sent by mail.

It is very cold now, and we have had snow. I have written for a number of things (a kumsock &c). Please send me down a pair of loose fur or wool-lined shoes or slippers, with moderately thick soles, to come up on the foot like a ratta high slipper. They are made often of leather dressed like a fur skin, and can be bought at any shoe store. Take care of the boots I gave Nash for a model and get them very large. Not however that

Kind made to wear over an ordinary boot.

Do not think I am suffering for these, for I am not, but a great many have them and they are very good to put on the first thing in the morning when we go to roll call and report to the Colonel. If you would like to send my boy a warm coat or jacket, he would be very grateful I am sure.

I get along very comfortably here and have enough good food and warm clothing. The men are well supplied with clothes.

To-day we have no drills, only the regular weekly Company inspection and the invariable dress parade. I do not know if we shall have any religious services.

I am very much obliged for your letters and for Father's and Zig-zigs, and read them with great pleasure. You must not allow yourself to get anxious for we are as safe here as at home, and there are no signs of an advance. With love to all I remain

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Sient. Tilden has just gone to Boston and perhaps he, or St. Holmes, would bring down my Knapsack containing the things I have sent for when he comes. Do not trouble yourself to send them by express, or by any expensive means. The Knapsack will contain all.

Affectionately
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton, January 20th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have to acknowledge your nice letter of January 11th, and I yesterday received by Capt. Berlett the knapsack, and the many nice and useful things it contained including your note. Please accept Cornie's thanks for the book, which he enjoys, and thank Mary Ann very much from him for the knife. Do not send him any more presents he will be too much dated. I hope you have not bought him a coat, for I have got a stout frock for him, which answers every purpose. The ginger bread is delicious. You expressed some anxiety about my eyes. They have not given me the slightest trouble since I came here and this I think is owing to the fact that I am obliged to spend about all the time in the open air, and go to bed early. When I am Officer of the Guard, for which duty my turn comes about once a week, I have to be up all night in a log hut, and move the whip every 2 hours, and then I have a great deal of time to read and write letters. I have a pot of coffee and a piece of bread, and I do not mind sitting up at all. The fur shoes are just what I want, and are I think better for being thick. I was very much astonished when I saw my photographs, to find them so good, after you had condemned them so strongly. I do not think the bad fit of the coat of much consequence, and I think the likeness excellent, and the

attitude easy. I send them back, having marked "good" on the backs of the two best. I feel perfectly satisfied with them, and do not think I could get a better. As far as I am concerned, I should like to have them I struck off and distributed. However, if you really are dissatisfied with them, and others are too, I can have some taken here. I intend to let the man here take my hat, with me standing in front, my boy near, and perhaps one or two of the servants. I have quite made friends with the men. One of them recently had a box come to him from home, and sent to me a present of a good piece of ham. One of the Sergeants, a very queer fellow, a German Jew by birth, a great lover of good eating, has made me a most delicious pudding. His same man got for me a pair of quails when we were on picket. I am very glad to hear that Col. Lee is better treated, and I cannot but hope he may yet be exchanged. If the Government had determined not to exchange, I should think they would have appointed a new Colonel long ago.

I should like to have a good copy of my club table kept for me.

Your ever affectionate Son
Henry Ropes.

Camp Benton January 23^d 1862.

My dear Mother.

I believe I have no letter from you to answer, but as I have a few lines to me for I drop you a line. I want a calendar for 1862. Please let John get and send it to me.

We know I keep home here and have my own cooking done by my boy. Will you give me a few receipts to make some simple dishes? Tell me how to make a simple and nourishing soup. I can get rice, salt or fresh meat, and other necessities for cut up and cooked. Tell me how much you boil the rice and meat. Tell me how to make one or two simple puddings. I cannot often bake but can always boil and fry. How is dipped toast made? How an omelet? How poached and scrambled Eggs? How some simple bread puddings? These will do, I think. I forgot boiled beef. Can I make this good? Do not give me too many. I should be much obliged for the above. I am well and there is no news here. Kuapack and all same wife. I am having a cooking place built opposite my tent which will be very convenient.

Good bye

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp Benton, January 23rd 1862.

My dear Mother.

I am very much obliged for your letter of January 21st received last night; and for the brandy &c. you have sent. I did have a very slight touch of diarrhoea soon after I arrived and not long ago one of the Officers was troubled, and asked me if I had anything good for diarrhoea, and then I wished for the Cherry Cordial which is I think the very best thing. I only brought about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pint of brandy and some of this leaked out, and the rest I took, partly as a medicine for this slight attack, and partly afterwards, as a preventive. I think that often a few spoonfuls of brandy in one's water are a very good precaution. There is nothing so apt to produce a slight diarrhoea as a sudden change of the water one drinks.

I am now in perfect health. Thank you for the boy's overcoat. I think I shall give it to him (like a lining) only to be worn while he stays with me - for I am by no means perfectly satisfied with him. He (like most boys) is careless, lets the fire go out, breaks eggs, spills milk &c. and I want to keep the hope of reward and the fear of discharge very clearly before his eyes. He mends well and as he is strong and does what I tell him (when he does not forget) and is acquainted with the customs of a camp, and knows the places where to buy milk, eggs, &c., I shall keep him and try to teach him to be a really good servant.

I am very sorry Frank did not dine at the Kellys, and hope he
will be re-invited. I always thought Mr. Ed. Doonan one of the
best of men, and am very sorry to hear of his death. How is Mrs.
Doonan? I suppose she expected her husband's death for several
weeks, and so it was not a sudden shock. I often think of you
on a Sunday, and I should value very much now one of the Bishop's
sermons which we used to think so little of. I miss very much
some regular service on Sunday. Any sort of church would be better
than none. Had I not been detailed on guard duty I should have gone
to Locksville to church last Sunday. It was the sun, really fair
day we have had for almost 20 days. Love to all.

Your affectionate son
Henry Ropes.

Camp Benton, January 31st 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have received your letter of January 20th with Father's and am very much obliged for it, for the receipts, for the Almanac, and for your and Father's very kind desires to minister in so many ways to my comfort here.

Much obliged for Dr. Huntington's Tract, and for your kind advice in your letters. The boy is a Catholic, and will not read or hear the Bible or Prayer Book, but would be very thankful for a Catholic Bible, which I think it would be well to send him. Cannot you find some old child's story book? There is one of mine, I think in the Boys' Parlor, with pictures and some German stories, which I should be glad to give him. A boy needs something of that kind. Mary Ann can find something, I know. I should find your receipts more useful, now. Anna to bake, and to get milk, and vegetables. The former is very scarce and for the latter we have "desiccated vegetables" so called, all kinds, cut fine, pressed and dried. I shall try the Rice and Bread puddings. I have as yet had no pudding but twice when one of my sergeants made me some. I often eat your nice strawberry preserve with bread.

I have written to Father fully about money matters. I am sure I do not want you to feel you cannot send me any presents ~~any~~

you may wish and I assure you I shall be most thankful for any-
thing, but I shall like to be able to buy clothes &c. sometimes and
have them sent on at my own expense. So just as you wish to please
but do not forget that the Government gives me \$1000. a year, and I am
a self supporting institution.

I shall try to go to Church on Sunday, and think I can get
off for I am Officer of the Guard to-morrow (Saturday) and am reliev-
ed at 12 past 1 on Sunday, and till afternoon the men who have just
come off guard are always relieve from duty being supposed to be tired.
It is Communion Sunday, I know and I should esteem it a great
privilege to go. Why do you persist in considering me unwell? I
never in my life was in better health than I am in at this moment.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Ropes.

Camp Benton, February 4th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have no letter from you to answer, but thought I would write a few lines just to tell you what I have done. On Sunday we walked to Tooleville 2 1/2 miles through awful mud, and got in time for the last part of the Sermon and for the Communion at the little Episcopal Church there. I could not start earlier as we had to parade at 1 O'clock and afterwards Company Inspection. Sunday and to-day were pleasant. Yesterday a snow storm, and this evening cold. I was very glad to be able to attend even for a few minutes at a regular service, and particularly glad to be in time to Commune. There was no afternoon service.

You were very kind to write so to me about presents. As to what I desire most, I assure you that one of your good pies or puddings would be far more acceptable than any expensive things you could buy at a store for me. I cannot get vegetables here, or puddings. I cannot bake, and can only rarely get anything done at the Regimental Ovens. My standard food is bread, which is excellent, and meat, almost always fine. In no other way can I cook it so well or so soon. My attempts at Soup and at boiled Rice have been failures. My boys let them burn, and they have to be boiled a long time. I have written fully to John about getting me a proper stove.

who can cook. I have plenty to do now during the day, but ^{have} the evenings
to myself, and I really need a servant who will take all the care
of my food off my hands. I can often get a bit of meat roasted but
nothing in the way of pudding. I assure you, that nothing would be
a more desirable gift than a good nice pudding, such a one as would
keep, or a mince pie, which would also keep. But do not send any-
thing by Express which you wish to come soon, for I have not yet
received the box by Edwards' Express and may not for a long time. I
am in need of nothing, and only mention these things that you might
know what to send when you had an opportunity and wanted to give
me something. I have received the "Advertiser" quite regu-
larly of late. I got yesterday a letter from Mary Ellen
which I shall soon answer.

Love to all from

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton February 11th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have just now received your letter of Feb^{ry} 8th and thank you very much for it. I was very sorry to hear of your illness, and very glad to know that you are now getting better. If your weather has been like ours I do not wonder you caught cold.

Capt. Cabot, who has just got a leave of absence for a few days, has had just such an attack, only down here we do not have a comfortable bed and room to be sick in. I have received the coat, but have not given it to Corine as he does not deserve or need it, and I intend to send him off as soon as possible. It is a very nice coat, and I shall send it back to you unless you wish me to make some other disposition of it. The Bible, when it comes I shall give him, and hope he will learn from it to be more useful to his next master. I have written to John about a new servant, and hope he will not send one unless he is sure he will do, for now I have got quite a good man from my Company who is very soon to be discharged because he has lost the sight of one eye. This new man will make very good coffee and dip toast when I can get milk. S. F. Towell has arrived, but looks thin. I have told Father that a private of my Company will call on John and by him you can send me anything. If you do send a box and would put in one of your nice pies, nothing

could be more acceptable. How do you boil a pudding? Is a bag needed?
How long do you boil it? You see I am very ignorant. I am sure we
have had snow, but on the whole it looks like better weather at last.
Is there sleighing at Boston? I like to hear such little particu-
lars very much. I am perfectly well, and so are all the Officers.
Can you send me 3 or 4 prayer books? I think I could give this
number away to the men very well. Please also send 1 vol. Cameron's
Infantry Tactics (\$1.25) bought any where. This last for my Corps-
=mate.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp Benton February 14th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I am very glad to get a letter from you and to find you so much better as to sit up. I went again to Church at Salsville last Sunday, and hope to be able to do so in future. My present man, Morris is a much better cook than I had thought, and has made a most excellent bread pudding which I assure you I appreciated. Perhaps you think I pay too much attention to eating, but I think if you were here and were blessed with as good an appetite as I am and had so little else in the way of luxuries, you would pay quite as much attention to your dinners. I shall be very much obliged for the tongues and ham, but I am glad you did not send the chickens for I can now get chickens here. If you should send me anything more, I would suggest pie puddings or cranberry sauce, for these I cannot get here. Nothing would be so acceptable as a good mince pie, or one of those nice puddings which keep from Thanksgiving to Christmas. I am particularly fond of a good mince pie. I have now found out how to get Eggs & Boulders & sometimes Milk, and in fact am rarely unable to get any of the raw materials, the trouble is in converting such into a pie or a pudding. I have made arrangements with a man here to keep on the look out for Chickens, &c., and I find every day almost some new way of making myself more comfortable.

Exmouth 22nd Jan - 1862

Thank you for the receipts. Mary I find, is an excellent cook, and I therefore live very well indeed now, and do not need them. I hear that all sorts of reports are in circulation about Banks' illness &c. Do not worry yourself about any such rumors and do not think we are anything but comfortable till you hear so from me. I shall keep John here just as long as I possibly can. It seems very natural to see him again, and he is now quite at home, and enjoying himself. I had to leave when we were at Camp Benton. I could have entertained him in a much more magnificent manner, but I shall now be settled here and get up all my things from the old Camp.

I was greatly astonished to hear of President Fillmore's death. He bade me good bye so very kindly and asked me to come and see him when I came back. He was a very good kind man, although often indiscreet. I wonder who will succeed him.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Enclosed letter for Louisa.

Camp Benton, February 23-1852.

My dear Mother.

I enclose a picture of myself, which my Sergeant took here at Camp yesterday. You see how fat I have got in the face. I have allowed the hair to grow on my face since I came, and this makes it look so indistinct about the chin and throat. I shall shave my chin to-morrow and then be taken on a card, just as I was before I left home. I think this is an excellent likeness, and our Sergeant is a very fine operator. He has a little log house, and has made a great deal of money already. You see it is my undress uniform with sword, just as I came off guard. So much open air, and enough to do, and no violent exercise has made me very fat and I weigh 103 lbs. I know you would see the picture first so I wrote about it before thanking you for the box which has just come. It contains a quantity of Gingerbread, 2 roast fowls, 1 plum-cudding in a tin, 1 pie in 2 tin plates, 1 pot marmalade, 1 pot Raspberry sauce, 1 tongue, 1 box candles, 1 bill files, large supply of blotting paper, 1 prayer book, 1 Cameron's Tactics, 1 cod liver box writing paper, Kingsley's Sermons, 1 towel, several pieces cloth, and several newspapers. For all these things I am very much obliged indeed to you and to Father and to every body who thought of or made or sent them. I am sure you are very kind to me

we so many luxuries. Everything is useful, for it is rare, even to see what things we can, and what we cannot get here. The instance the string or rope rather round the box, was a most useful present to me. You cannot buy such here. The Cod-line will be invaluable.

If the war goes on at this rate, we may as well all come home in a week, for the Rebels seem to be evacuating every strong place they have made, and if they dare not wait behind their works, what will they do in the open field? We are ^{now} in Sedgwick's Division, and Lander's Brigade. The 10th Mass. are to be moved up to this Brigade very soon and with us are the Minnesota 2^d and the miserable Germany and one or 2 other New York Regiments constitute our Brigade. We have 2 most excellent Generals, and we consider our own Regiment and the Minnesota 2^d and perhaps the 10th Mass. excellent Regiments.

Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

March 2^d 1862 Camp Foster
Coolsville, Md.

My dear Mother.

We have now been 5 days quietly settling ourselves down in this camp. We have got our own tents and put them up in place of those left by the 15th Regiment.

I was delighted to see John on Friday. He came by stage and is now well settled in our tent. He has seen Col. Ze in Washington. We are delighted to hear of the Colonel's release, and expect him here soon. I do not think we shall be long here for I think the whole army will be thrown across the Potomac. We can hear nothing definite about Genl. Banks except that he has crossed and that Mr. Mellan is with him. We have had very cold nights and very strong winds here, and the troops who have marched and are without tents and baggage must have suffered. The roads are still horrible and it is impossible to transport the regular amount of baggage.

To-day we have a snowstorm after a fine warm morning. John and I have attended the Episcopal Church and have communed. A very good sermon. James Codman came last night and is the Colonel's guest. He looks as stout and well as ever. I am much obliged for the prayer books which you sent and have distributed them.

Continuity 2nd page of letter of Feb. 24

I do not think we shall move for some weeks at any rate, and if we do, there will be a way left to store or send home such baggage as we shall not take on a march.

Give all my love. I shall answer all soon. I hope soon to hear of your perfect recovery.

If you have a chance, send me a few pounds of raisins or of Zante Currants to make puddings. Those of the latter are poor and very dear. I can get very good ham and salt beef here. Please tell me how to make those nice Indian flapjacks. I think Morris can cook them. Marcus Cooper arrived here yesterday. Good bye.

Yours affectionate son
Henry.

City Hotel, Middletown, Va.
March 6th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I enclose a long letter to Mary Ann giving an account of my journey to this place and this morning as I have a few moments to spare, I improve it by writing a continuation to you. First however, I must tell you of the long tramp John and I took to see Ball's Bluff. We started from Camp at 11 O'cl. I was off duty because I had just come off Guard, and we expected to be back by 2 O'cl., but the walking was so bad, and there was so much to see, that we did not get back till 6 O'cl. and then I found orders waiting for me, to go to this place. I however passed a pleasant evening with John, saw him comfortably to bed, and then started on my expedition. We certainly had a very rough ride for the roads, especially through the mountains, were horrible. At about 8 in the morning it was exceedingly dark and we came to the bank of a small river which we must cross. A waterfall, just above us, made such a noise we could not hear anything else, and the guide said he never knew the river so high before. We pushed in however and got through, although the stream was rapid and the horses up to their bodies. It was so dark you could see hardly anything but the white foam of the water, and it was very cold.

Frederick

through which we passed, is quite a City looking place, and has several fine houses. There are large barracks here for troops now empty, for our troops from here crossed with Banks. The hardships of our ride were however amply made up for by the beauty of the scenery as we got upon the crest of the hills which encircle the valley in which is this town. At the farther end about 12 miles off, we could see the mountains of Harper's Ferry which I have often heard you speak of.

Well, I had a most comfortable sleep here last night, and am now (~ A.M.) waiting for the arrival of the cattle. I expect to ride slowly on with them, and reach Camp to-morrow evening.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

El Bolivar Heights, Va.
20th Regiment, March 21st 1862.

My dear Mother.

You see we are still in this little town, awaiting every day orders to proceed to Washington. I have not received letters from you for a long time. Since we left Camp Lee, I have only got one letter from John and one from Mr. Willard, the latter received last night. I wonder if you still continue to write and to direct as before. The mail comes regularly here.

I have been all about this most beautiful spot, and I often think of what you have often said about it, and about your visit to it when a child. Now however it presents a very martial appearance. The hills and fields are covered with troops, and you see them drilling, and hear the music all day long. Not a few Companies, or a half dozen small guns such as you have seen on the Common but whole Brigades together, Regiment after Regiment of Infantry and Cavalry, and huge guns each drawn by 8 horses, and an endless line of them too. Day before yesterday there was a Cavalry review, and in the Afternoon a drill of Germann's Brigade, 6 or 7 thousand men. Although there are so many men here, there is no disturbance at all, and very few drunken men, and no injury done to the few families who have remained. Every where Guards are posted, and strict

Discipline is enforced. I have been over the ruins of the Arsenal, and the vast destruction of property here is really frightful. The works were of enormous extent, and are now completely destroyed. It is like what you read about in a history of the French Revolution, to see fine houses completely ransacked and soldiers in what were once the best chambers, and actually horses stabled in the lower floors. Here one really splendid house, the fine fences and hedges are cut down and the Artillery parked on what was once a beautiful terraced lawn overlooking the Shenandoah. We have had two days of rain, and the clouds hang very low over the tops of the mountains.

Another thing that strikes one is to hear the Massachusetts Band playing the tune of "John Brown's soul is marching on," with the full force of trumpets and drums, on the very spot where he was taken. As far as I have been able to learn, the people are really sick of the Rebellion and heartily desirous of peace, and they of course see that peace can only be when the Rebellion is crushed.

There seems to be no doubt that we are going very soon to Washington, and to be there in Genl. Sumner's Corps d'Armee. What a glorious victory by Burnside! I hear none of our friends are killed, but Sargent wounded. You must excuse this paper and writing. I am using a board for a desk and have no chair.

Your affectionate Son
J. Perry.

Edwin H. Wright, 20th Regiment
March 21st 1862 S. P. M.

My dear Mother.

I have just received your letter inclosed in one from Father, and am glad you received my letters. I was very sorry to lose the brandy &c. but really have not needed it at all. I have not been in the least troubled with any sickness requiring either of the kinds of liquor. Still, if you send me a little of either, I shall be very glad of it; but do not send anything else, unless it is eatable, for we carry almost no baggage, and cannot. I find the Coffee most excellent, and the milk also. In marching, there is one thing to be observed above everything - viz: not to be overloaded. Our men have thrown away, coats, blankets, hats, and quantities of small trash to lighten their backs. I wrote you a long letter about my photographs. I represented the case, I thought, very clearly, and stated distinctly that I did not wish that one copied which was taken before I shaved my beard. I thought I gave good reasons for my choice and was very much astonished to find in your letter merely a short postscript - saying you preferred the one I had so positively condemned. If you have not received my letter on the subject, please let me know, but if you have, please examine the reasons & there brought to your notice. I am very glad we are to leave this crowded and dirty place, and hope we shall not again

be quartered in houses.

I have no doubt you had a very pleasant evening at your party for Col. See.

I am very sorry to notice the death of Mr. Porter, instructor in Music at Harvard College. Mention it to Frank in your letters for he knew him and studied with him.

Please give my kindest regards to Mr. Willard, and say I hope to answer his letter very soon.

We are off at day-break to-morrow, so I must bid you good bye for the present. Love to all.

Yr affectionate Son
Henry Lopes.

Camp 20th Regiment before Yorks-
town, Va. April 25th 1862.

My Dear Mother,

I thank you for your kind letter of the 18th received yesterday. I tell all the news I have to give in my letter to Father, but I must not forget to thank you also for the nice things you have sent in the box. I cannot tell how greatly such gifts contribute to my comfort and how very much obliged I am for them all.

I am very glad you have enjoyed Dr. Mercer's lectures. Do not think that I neglect my devotional duties. I always have time enough for that. On Sundays I read the service, and although I have no sermon, yet I find the regular observance of Sunday as far as possible, a great pleasure and benefit. Last Sunday was Easter, and while I was reading the morning service we were suddenly called out and marched to the front with every expectation of meeting the enemy, but it turned out a false alarm, and toward night we returned to camp. Herbert's younger brother ^{Philip} 2^d Lieutenant in the regular Artillery came over to see him the other day. He looks very well indeed. I believe he is very near us.

We have not met with a serious loss in Capt. Bartlett. He was a man of true military spirit and tastes and to be deprived of sharing in the coming struggle must be a great disappointment to him. He has lost a leg, but will no doubt do well, as he is young and strong.

Love to all.

Love affectionately
Mary

Camp Winfield Scott before Yorktown
Va. May 2^d 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have received this morning your letter of April 25th for which I am much obliged. We are still here, and likely to remain until the Rebel works are taken, so far as I can see.

I am afraid you make yourself needlessly anxious about me for as yet we have not been in any danger, and very likely may not be in any, for it is thought the Rebels will evacuate when they see the preparations for attack completed. Since Capt. Bartlett was wounded we have had only Col. Jeffrey for a field Officer, and he is confined to his tent by a lame foot, and we are in terrible need of Col. See and the Major. Lieut. Riddle has just returned from Fort Mifflin, and he says that our Government released a Rebel Colonel Major and Lieut. from Fort Mifflin, and sent them on a parole of 15 days to Richmond as exchange for our Officers and that the Rebel Colonel promised on his honor to return if not exchanged in 15 days, but the time is now up and he has not returned. He says perhaps the violation of parole by these Rebels will (according to the rules of war) release Col. See and his companions from their parole, but I suppose it will be a difficult question of honor. It is reported that unless in some way field Officers are supplied to us very soon, we shall be sent back to the Fort.

and some full Regiment put in our place. The action of the Colonel would do all right. We have had a great deal of cold wet weather, but now the sun shines again, and it is really hot. We have fully a great change of weather here, as you have at home.

Our picket firing has now about ceased. The Rebels fire a little at night, but we do not return it, and keep concealed. If our men should return their fire, they could see by the flash of the guns where and how many we were. I have written to know if my box and trunk have arrived at the Port. If I find they have, I shall send Henry down, and let him bring me many things from my trunk which I want.

If you could send me any good books by mail, I should be very much obliged. Nothing heavy or valuable of course, but some of the "Democracy" volumes might perhaps go thus. Perhaps you could cut one of these into 2 or 3 parts and send me at a time like a newspaper. All any rate an Atlantic Monthly or Living Age would go, but I should prefer a standard work. John would see to it.

Love to all. My ones are perfectly well.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment above West Point
- Va. Sunday May 11th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I wrote a long letter to John yesterday asking him to send me some clothes &c., and to say Uncle. Perry has arrived and brought me the watch and a letter from Father and one from Mary Ann enclosed. I am very much pleased with the watch, and very glad to get it so soon. Before I forget it, I will tell you that I should like you to put into the bag a good ball of stout twine, several fish hooks, of the "perch" and "taritog" size (John knows) and 3 or 4 little bags to hold say 2 or 3 pints each for sugar, rice &c. to go in my haversack and knapsack.

I hear that Adams & Co. are to establish a great depot at West Point, and I expect that thus before long I shall get your bag of good things, the new bag, and what things I need out of my trunk. It seems to me almost certain that in 2 weeks at furthest we must come to some settled camp, and then we can get up everything and prepare for passing a summer in the South. In case the resistance of the Rebels is prolonged several months, still this would be overcome by strong parties sent out from some great encampment. I think there must be either a great battle here in 10 days, or a general breaking up of the Rebel Army and perhaps a series of skirmishes for 2 or 3 months. In either case, we shall probably have at last some

settled camp and be able to get up our trunk's &c. and make ourselves
very comfortable. I am on guard to-day and yesterday was on picket,
but no enemy anywhere near and nothing to do. Mc. Clellan has
just ridden by, and the usual cheers of the men. The battle at
Williamsburg was severe, and but for Mc. Clellan's arrival might
have been disastrous to us. It is beautiful weather but very warm,
and like Midsummer at home.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Heard of evacuation of Norfolk to-day.

Camp 20th Regiment
May 30th 1862.

My dear Mother.

Mary thanks for yours of the 22^d. You all seem to think a great deal more of our hardships &c. than we do. It almost makes me smile to read your commiserations for the sufferings which I generally find difficult in remembering when I get your replies several days after the events have happened. I am afraid I have given very exaggerated accounts, but I certainly do not recollect that I ever have. I assure you we think nothing here, of what would be a great event at home. We hear heavy firing in the advance, and are ordered under arms, and ordered to be ready at a moment's notice, and never think so much about it as we should at home if we saw in the paper that heavy firing was heard near Richmond. One gets very philosophical in the Army, and nobody ever gets excited on any occasion.

I am very glad there is some prospect for the stores, but would rather reserve the power to close the lease at the end of 5 years for instance by paying a certain sum. If trade revives after the war, there may be a much better use to put the stores to.

To find out if you can who the W. F. Temple was, who was wounded and let me know. Please tell Mary Ann I shall write very soon to her and thank her for her letters.

I have sent home by Mr. Atkins to John a number of very interesting & valuable relics. I am very well. We get some Strawberries now, and there are a few peaches about. It is quite warm now and very pleasant. This is a beautiful country covered with very large woods, and abounding in springs of water. The farmers are tramped over and the people will certainly suffer for want of the usual crops.
Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Picket Station Fair Oaks, Va.
20th Regiment, June 7th Saturday 1862, 7 a.m.

My dear Mother.

I know you must have been very anxious for my safety when you heard we had been engaged in so desperate a battle, but I assure you I wrote as soon as I could, and Henry tells me he sent a letter as soon as he heard of my safety.

We are still in the same advanced position, and have taken off equipments & clothes, and everyday exchange a few shots with the enemy's pickets, but this morning and yesterday afternoon they have been unusually quiet, and have no doubt withdrawn. I am stationed in a barn attached to a small house, very near the Fair Oaks Station, on the West Point and Richmond Rail Road. Our pickets extend $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in advance to a Shanty on what is called the "1st Mile House" to Richmond.

As the enemy brought forward their best troops and best General on Saturday and Sunday and were utterly defeated, I hardly think they can make a long stand against our entire force now concentrated upon them. I hope they will stake all on a battle before Richmond for it is worth a great deal to end this Rebellion by one great stroke. On Sunday (June 1st) they flooded the Chickahominy to prevent our troops crossing, and the bridge by which we came over was carried away,

so had we been defeated then the result would have been most disastrous.
Genl. Sumner managed the battle of Sedgwick in a splendid manner.
He is a large gray-haired, old man, with a flowing white beard,
and was close behind our Regiment. When he ordered the final advance,
he rode along, hat off, cheering on the men, and inspiring the
greatest enthusiasm. The Michigan ^{Regiment} on our left once got into
confusion under a very heavy fire and fell back, but our Regiment
stood perfectly firm and the Michigan soon was brought up again
and repulsed an attempt of the enemy to turn our left. It has rained
almost constantly for 3 days, and we have endured great exposure
here in the advance, but to-day is fair and everything quiet.

Love to all. Shall answer Mary Anne soon.
I am perfectly well.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 2^d Regiment near Fair Oaks
Va. Sunday June 15th 1862.

My Dear Mother.

I was delighted to receive your letter yesterday.

We have been now several days at this camp about $3\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in rear of our advanced position on the Rail Road, and "9 Mile road" as it is called. Artillery firing has now about ceased, and yesterday and to-day we have been as quiet as if we were back in old camp Benton again. Still we are under arms every morning at 3 O'clock and at 3.30 the men are allowed to sit down in their places till 4.30 when they break ranks. At 3.30 the Whisky is given out, and indeed is very much needed. The Doctors recommend everyone in good health to take it as a protection against the early damp air of this country. I often take mine but generally give it to Henry as it is common Government stuff, and very unpalatable. We are now having hot dry weather which is no doubt more healthy than the constant rain and damp we have had. The air is delightful, and there is generally a breeze. I have my little shelter tent pitched on legs, which keeps it 2 feet or so from the ground, and I have a bed made of poles raised from the ground by forks driven down. Over this is a thick layer of leaves, and my blanket spread on top makes a most comfortable bed. We suffer one great deprivation however. We get no fruit

and vegetables. At the Camp we left before the battle we could get Straw-
berries and peas quite often, but here there is such an immense body
of troops that the few vegetables that are raised in the 2 or 3 little
gardens near here are as nothing, and are probably all taken up by the
Generals and guards. I have been able now to get fresh meat for 2 days,
but before that I had nothing but ham for a long time. Indeed among
the men there were one or 2 cases of Scurvy, caused by eating too much
salt food. You can hardly imagine how much one longs for acid
food. The Doctor recommended vinegar, and I constantly mix it with
water. Lemons and Oranges are brought up often on the Cars by the
Engineers and others, and are eagerly sold at 10 cents each, and then
often very poor. Swell managed to get hold of a pot of Fine Apple
preserve, for which he paid \$3.⁰⁰ but which he was kind enough to share
with Macy and myself. I hope to find that the Commissary has got
some potatoes before long, and we daily expect the sutler with a supply
of pickles &c. but at present we are in great need of fresh and acid food.

The 2nd Master has sent down for all Express things for
the Regiment and I expect the valise daily.

You are very kind to speak of sending me more things. Should
you send anything, I would suggest Lemons, Lemon or Lime Juice;
pickles, &c. as being most suitable for this hot weather.

We are now on quite high ground, and therefore healthy, but the
low swampy land which is the rule here, has a very depressing, malarial

effect on the constitution in hot weather.

Can you send me 2 or 3 toothpicks in a letter?

I hear rumors again this morning of the evacuation of Richmond. It would seem likely, had they not shown a desire to fight at least, and in not their leaders make such solemn promises to defend the place. I hear that 2 of our great siege guns are mounted now, and when we do open, if we ever have a chance, I think they will be sorry they staid so long.

Love to all at home.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp Lincoln 20th June 1862.
My dear Mother.

I have now got my valise and I assure you I have appreciated its contents. Thank you very much for the Gingerbread, bags, haversack &c. and the books. Please thank Father and Louise for their kind presents of books. I not only enjoy them myself but have given much pleasure to others by lending them. I think I can not describe clearly what kind of shirt I wanted. I do not want an Undershirt at all, as this would be superfluous when one wears a thick flannel shirt next the skin. Such as you sent are worn by those whose skins are so tender that they cannot wear flannel next the skin. I wrote to get some thin flannel shirts but have since determined that my present ones are very good, and should I want more I can get them of the Sutter who now has a good supply. I find the preserved Coffee you have sent is not very good or wholesome, and shall therefore exchange it for something else with the Sutter. I drink tea principally here. The Doctor says it is more healthy in this country. The chocolate is very nice; the gingerbread beyond praise. The little bags are extremely useful and very nicely made.

I am now perfectly well, the weather is dry, though warm, and the health of the Regiment is improving.

We had a sad death in the Company yesterday. A most

excellent man named Thomas Whitson Private from Stone. Mass.
He leaves 2 small children. He has been sick a long time,
and was at times a little out of his mind, but lately had been getting
better. Yesterday afternoon I was called by a Corporal suddenly to see
him, and found him in a fit, but perfectly quiet. I sent for the Doctor,
but before the Doctor came he fell back, perfectly pale, and his pulse
ceased. (All said he was dead, but the Doctor coming up laid him back
and the blood suddenly returned to his face, and he groaned aloud. He
lay perfectly unconscious for a long time, and the most violent stimulants
seemed to have no effect. Suddenly the fit became epileptic, and
he struggled and cried out. Violent emetics were partially successful,
and he finally quieted down, and was taken to the Hospital. Here
he quietly died about 1/2 an hour after. He is to be buried this
afternoon at 6. Col. Lee will read the service. He was a
most excellent faithful man, a widower, and seemed always to feel
very much the loss of his wife, and to think a great deal about his
2 little children. I feel his death very much. I have no doubt
the funeral will be a very solemn occasion.

All is quiet now, and nobody knows what is to happen the
next hour. On the whole the belief is that Mc. Keller intends
to pursue his old plan, and conquer more by his fortifications and guns
than by his troops. He always spares life as much as he can.
The forts in our front are tremendous and it would be sheer madness

for the enemy to attack us here.

We have now good food, and everybody's health is improving. I keep perfectly well. To-day is Club Day, a day to which I had looked forward for years but however much I wish the pleasure of the day, I am very glad I am here instead. I hope to get full accounts from you all. I am afraid Mary Ann will forget me when she goes away with her young lady friends. She has owed me a letter ever so long, and I hear she has been staying at Miss Blake's. You must make her write when she returns.

So you will soon be at the Seashore. It promises to be a very pleasant summer for you.

Best love to Father and all.

Yours affectionate Son
Henry

Camp Simcoe June 22^d
(Sunday) 1862.

My dear Mother.

I received yesterday your letter of the 14th. You have no doubt heard of the arrival of my valise by my letter to John.

I think I may now have acknowledged the receipt by mail of the key, about 3 weeks ago. Beside this the key lies on some safely, and so I have two keys.

I think I have written to John about Herbert's and my Degrees. We sent in a formal petition and enclosed it in a letter to Bishop Doane, begging him to present it to the Faculty. Herbert has received a letter from his Father in which he says he desires that the Faculty give us a Degree without our asking for them. Of course it is too late to carry out this now, as our petition has gone on. I always intended to petition, and Pres^t Tilton advised me to do so. I rather think the Faculty will grant our request. I am very anxious to hear about Class Day.

Will you please send me 3 or 4 sheets of post paper by mail? I want to write to Frank and to Sister Mary.

I have really forgotten whether I ever answered Sister Anna's last letter. I intended to do so, but I think the battle and the 10 days of hard work after it, put it out of my mind. However I shall

certainly will not make one.

The books are going the rounds of the Regiment very rapidly.

Yesterday afternoon the Rebels attacked in front, but were quickly driven back as I hear with great loss. We were under arms of course but did not leave our Camp. It is expected that our Guns will open to-morrow. Please tell John that I made a mistake in writing to him that Lieut. Abbott had Gen. Pittigrew's sword. Pittigrew gave his sword to his fleeing friends. It was Lt. Colonel Bull's sword that Abbott got. Both men were taken and brought in about the same time, and I got them a little confused. Col. Bull died that night.

After the attack yesterday Mc. Clellan rode up and was received as usual with thousands cheers.

I hear that we had notice of the approach of the enemy yesterday, and being all prepared let them get well into the open land and then suddenly — opened from our lines and with a terrific cross fire of canister. They fled leaving their colors and the slaughter was awful. We had one slightly wounded. This is the report I have heard. I am well as usual.

Love to Father and all.

Your affectionate Son
J. C. Curry.

Camp 20th Regiment July 9th 1862.

My dear Mother.

This is I find my last 1/2 sheet so I would write you a longer letter. It is often very hard to get paper, and this is you see very bad. I must hunt about now for a better one and get some more.

We are in the middle of a Southern July now, and it is hot enough, but we get up shades and drink lemonade when we can get it, and manage to get along quite well.

Of course we have none of the usual summer luxuries, ice, milk and fruit, but there is no knowing what enterprise will accomplish if we stay here long enough for any Yankee to open a store, and I dare say we shall have an ice cream saloon by and by.

We are perfectly quiet and there is no appearance of a move. I do not see what is going to be done.

I have really no news to tell you. I am well and quite comfortable. Henry is quite well too. I hope you will soon be at Swampscott and enjoy the sea air. I should delight to be with you.

Best love to Father.

Yours ever affectionate Son
Henry.

Enclosed letter for Mary Ann.

Camp 20th Regiment Mass. Vols.
near Harrison's Landing, Va. July 13th
Sunday 1862.

My dear Mother.

I am somewhat astonished that I did not get any letters at all either yesterday or today, but I have this morning received an Advertiser so I suppose you are all well or John would have written.

I felt very sorry to leave you uncertain about me for so long a time, but I really could not write before. Major Kerse wrote from Malvernton and Col. Lee went back soon after, and I knew you would hear of my safety from one of these sources. Capt. Cabot wrote very soon and promised to have word sent to you of my safety. I lost my knapsack containing writing materials, the prayer book you gave me, my tickets, and 3 or 4 of the book's John sent out. Besides this my woolen blanket and my overcoat cape. Henry lost his knapsack and all his things, but it was his own fault partly, for he might have carried it, or at any rate thrown only part away. I have come for a new knapsack, blanket &c. from Government. Besides I lost a woolen shirt, pair trousers and a pair socks, but I have plenty more of all these things in my trunk which I had sent to Fort Monroe long ago, and which I expect will by Express.

The Express boat has come in there is something for me, but the goods cannot be landed till to-morrow. I have no doubt that the article for me is the box you sent containing Demerol & Times &c. It will be most acceptable. We have to look out and keep the scurvy away. A great deal of sickness in camp is laid to the scurvy by the Doctor. Now we get fresh meat, onions and potatoes. We eat quantities of onions. They are a delicious vegetable, and I shall never despise them when I get home. For soup they are invaluable, and they are most excellent boiled or fried, and make a delicious salad cut up raw with pepper and vinegar. The Doctor especially recommends this last way of eating them. We have got very comfortable now. The Officers have wall beds, and as there are so few of us we have quite room enough. I have had a table put up and a bed and a bench and am most comfortable. This is a very healthy camp and I am never better in my life. There is a brook close to us and a large pond a short distance off, and so we have abundant chances for bathing, and this is a great luxury and adds very much to the health of the Regiment.

We have had some terribly hot weather, but to-day it is pleasant and a fine breeze. I do not suffer from heat, but can stand it perfectly well.

No one appears to me to make a long stay here. Our earth-works in front are very strong and are being rapidly pushed forward.

The enemy do not trouble us in the least, and it is a rare thing to hear a gun fired.

I am getting to think that (as at Corinth) the fighting is over, and that Mc. Clellan is making this point so very strong that he may use it as a permanent base, leaving a part of his army here, while with the rest and with Burnside's he cuts off the Rebels' supplies from the South leaving Pope to do the same on the West. When they must evacuate or break up their Army. However, no one can do anything but surmise.

I have heard nothing from the Colonel. He made not and good morning more than anything else I think.

Tell John to send me another copy of Alton Locke. You spoke of sending me some religious books. I should be delighted to get some. You could easily send sermons, as they could go by mail and are so often published in a pamphlet form. Always send everything by mail in preference to Express when you can, for the Express is very slow & delayed.

I had almost finished & forgotten my principal reason for writing.

Many happy returns of your birthday, my dear Mother. May you have many more and many happier ones than this. With God's blessing both your absent sons may be with you on your next birthday. I hope it may be so and that you may be kept well & able

to enjoy so happy a day as that would be. Always keep cheerful
and hope for the best.

Your ever affectionate son
Henry.

Camp Harrison's Landing, Va.
July 15th 1862.

My dear Mother,

I received yesterday your letter of the 9th and to-day I have received your beautiful gift the prayer book I so much wanted to replace the one the Rebels got. I am indeed very much obliged for it. I hope I shall always read it and benefit by it, and that I may yet be permitted to open it in the old pew at Trinity.

Last night I got the box and I assure you the contents were most acceptable. The lemons and lime juice are particularly desirable, and will no doubt prove a great advantage to my health. The figs are very fine. I am particularly fond of figs. The Uthoxy will be invaluable if we have any bad weather or exposure. I am delighted to find 2 cans of Milk instead of condensed Coffee which I do not care for. The milk will be very useful.

I am sorry to say that Henry is quite unwell. He has quite a severe turn of diarrhoea, but sees Dr. Crehore, and will no doubt soon improve. I am very glad you are at the Seaside. I think Father is always better for his regular afternoon ride and for the sea air. I hope you will enjoy the season. Do you have Dr. Huntington this year? I shall value a church in future. I do not have any to speak of in this country. We have seen one since

leaving Fort Mifflin. I have a great many letters to answer
to-day, so I must close.

Best love to Father.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment near Harrison's
Landings, Va. July 23^d 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have received your letter of the 17th and am very glad you date it from Swampscott. I often envy you the sea breezes and fresh invigorating air of Swampscott. As for me, I am passing a summer in the country, and I must say I prefer the sea shore.

I am glad to hear such good accounts of Col. Zee's health. I think he needs rest and the comforts of home more than any regular Doctor's treatment. You must not allow yourself to look forward to any possible dangers I may be exposed to. We are now heavily entrenched here, and it would be madness for the enemy to attempt to attack us, and I incline to think the next great battle will be on the other side, and that Genl. Pope will manage to make Richmond an untenable place. The Rebels have so concentrated their Army at Richmond that they can offer no resistance to columns sent out by Pope to cut off supplies &c., and you know such a vast army cannot stay where there is the least danger of a lack of food. It is very likely that Richmond will be taken, and the Rebel Army dispersed without much more fighting. So you must be thankful all has so far gone well and not look out for future danger.

It is very kind of you to be thinking about another box be-

fore I have disposed of this one I now have. Do not send expensive luxuries. I desire you a loaf of real home made cake or bread, or a pot of home made Cranberry Sauce or Rhubarb Apple Sauce or jelly is to me far nicer than the best of Sardinia or other things you may buy. Will you please send a small piece of netting? We are greatly troubled with flies, and it is very convenient to put a piece of netting over one's face while reading or sleeping.

I am delighted to find my name among the list of Grantees. I have no doubt I owe it in great measure to Father's exertions. My kindest regards to Mr. May, and my congratulations upon his engagement, if this is not so great a secret as yet, as not to admit of congratulations. I shall of course say nothing to anyone about it. I have written to Frank and sent on the letter.

Tell me if any of my young friends have entered College? Let John send me in a catalogue when they come out.

We are getting more comfortable every day now. Soon we are to have Ovens built and to really eat fresh soft bread. After such a long time on Government hard bread you can imagine how good this will be.

We have had cooler weather lately, and it is very dry now I think hardly. We do not have much to do. Please give my kindest regards to all my relatives and friends who may inquire for me.

Ever your affectionate Son

Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment on field near
Sharpsburg, Md. Sunday September 21st
1862.

My dear Mother.

I have not written to you for a long time, but I know it was the same thing to write to Father, and I have kept him as well informed of my movements as possible. Ever since we left Harrisburg, August 10th, I have not had a day or even an hour when I could be sure we were not to get immediate orders to start.

I have written fully to the others about the late battle, and have no more to say. You have no doubt seen full lists of the killed and wounded. I am entirely ignorant of the movements of the Rebels and even of our own troops. I hear however two reports, one that Gen. Sumner's Corps is not to cross into Virginia, but be left to protect Maryland, probably to stay near the Potomac; the other that Gen. Sigel's Corps is reported unfit for service. Do you know Gen. Linn is wounded; and of our Regiments the 4th Michigan is almost destroyed, the 42nd New York (Fanning) dispersed and almost broken up, and the 10th and 20th suffer heavily. Col. Mink's mortally wounded, St. John Devereaux and the 1st Captain wounded, the 2nd Gen. Colonel of the 50th killed, and we have lost Col. Saffrey. Col. Lee is quite broken down and ill. Do not of course multiply alarm to his family,

but it is the opinion of all here, that he is quite incapable of enduring the hardships of a camp life longer. He ought to go home and be attended to and nursed. He does not take care of himself at all, and gets wet through and sleeps without a hut on the wet ground &c, when he could just as well be comfortable and leave such rough duty to younger men. Then you know he is by no means a young man, and, as far as I have observed, an old man cannot endure hardship like a young one. Cold and wet and exposure use up an old man, when a young one gets over anything after a few hours of sleep and a good breakfast. The reason why some old men flourish so out here is that they take things easily and take great care of themselves, like old Sumner for instance. So as we are very short of Officers, and the Regiments greatly reduced in the number of men, we shall probably be left to lie still and recruit for a time.

I am delighted to find Mr. Willard is Major. I have tried to see him but have been so yet unable. Capt. Macy saw him, and he inquired particularly for me.

If you have an opportunity please send me 2 pairs of new blue woolen socks. I like them rather better than the Government socks, and they wear better.

We are now camped on a part of the battlefield and the trees are marked with shot and often split by balls and shells. Most of the dead are now buried, but large numbers of horses still remain and pollute the air.

The farmers about here have shown the greatest patriotism and Kindness.

They came on the field the day after the battle and took great quantities of the wounded to their own houses to nurse and attend to them.

I hear that in the midst of the battle a farmer brought 5 horses to one of our batteries from his own barn, and generously gave them to supply the places of those killed. Herbert Mason was particularly exposed, as he was on the left. He lost all his non-commissioned Officers, and half of his men. Our Division lost about one half.

A very good man of my Company, named Riley, was killed instantly. He was poor, and worked in a foundry in Chelsea, where he had a wife and 4 children. They may possibly be in want. Perhaps you could visit them when you make your charitable rounds.

James does very well now, and I shall no doubt keep him.
Love to Mary Ann and all. I shall try to write to her next.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Head Quarters Bolivar Field to
October 9th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I was delighted to meet John at the Camp yesterday afternoon and to find him well. He is enjoying himself very much, and to-day has gone over to the 2^d Corps. with Lieutenants Mason and Whittier. Robby Lee was with him, and is now with his mother at her lodgings in the town. His parents were delighted to see him as you may suppose. Mrs. Lee and Robby have been to ride with Capt. De Luz, this morning and see everything to be seen here. The Colonel is on a Court Martial to-day. John expects to visit the battle field with me to-morrow. I am very much obliged for the books, and shall write you thank all soon. I have other things for you which have not arrived yet, but will be here this P.M. I received from him 3 letters one from you, one from Louisa and one from Mary Ann. Shall answer all soon.

Mrs. Lee is very well and the Colonel about the same. Mrs. Lee talks of returning with John and Robert.
Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Regiment, Bolivar
October 21st 1862.

My dear Mother.

Thank you for word of the Ath received before John arrived.
He is now with you, I hope, and will do instead of any letters from me.

I have just received Father's of the 1st October. Please
tell him I never received the \$2.⁰⁰ in change he sent, but have no
doubt that that letter, with many others, were taken from the mail bag
at Mead's Quarters, where a mail thief has been discovered.

I hear there is a box for me at the Express Office. I suppose
this is the one John left containing the much needed blanket. Please
let there be no delay about sending on the Buffalo skin I wrote for.
There are rumors of an advance to-day, but I hear we are to garrison
this place.

Best love to Father and all. Encloses letter to Mary Ann.

Yours affectionate Son
Henry.

Thank you very much for the books John brought, the small ones of
which Peters & Simons, &c. I have just got. They will be very useful. Also
the other things, pens &c.
Your affectionate
Henry.

20th Regiment, Oct 23rd 1862.

Dear Mother.

Everything came safely in the trunk but the sauce which was broken. Thank you very much for the gingerbread (which is delicious) and all the other nice things. I am now perfectly comfortable, and ready to stay or go as it may happen. My new Knapsack is perfect. I dare say you never use the old set of which you sent me the Cup &c. If so, will you please send when next a box comes another small cup and plate, and 2 saucers. Also (if not in use) the little covered dish, I remember, of that same set. It would be very useful for me. By the time these get on I shall be in some permanent place of abode. I suppose.

Mrs. Lee was here last night, as I met in Father. She will probably join the Colonel to-day at Washington. My new blankets are splendid ones, and I am now perfectly protected.

Your affectionate Son
J. Perry.

Camp 20th Regiment near Rectorstown.
Va. November 7th 1862.

My dear Mother.

You see by the date of this letter that we are moving still down the valley towards Hancock. We marched to this place from Paris yesterday. It is very cold and today a driving N. E. Snow storm very like home. We have only shelter tents, a miserable protection and I have no doubt the men will suffer a good deal. I got along very well for I have India Rubber clothes and my invaluable Buffalo, and I dare say a few tents for the Officers will soon be sent up. This is a beautiful and fertile country, but most of the inhabitants Rebels. I have heard that Col. See arrived safely at Washington, and met Mrs. See at Knoxville. I have since heard it reported that he had gone home. I hope he has for he can of course be more comfortable there.

The Rebels appear to give way as we advance, and I have no doubt they will avoid a battle with a force so superior to their own. We are in the rear again now, and likely to remain there. Capt. DeLuc has accepted the Quarter Master Ship of Sigel's corps and rank^{as} Lieut. Colonel. Capt. Tracy of our Regiment is detailed as acting Brigade Quarter Master in Capt. DeLuc's place.

Our friends must excuse me for not writing often now, it is so very difficult without chair or rest and often without any shelter.

Love to all.

Your affectionate son
Mama.

December 2^d 1862.
Falmouth, Va.

My dear Mother

I believe I have no letters to answer, for I have received none for several days, and I am sure I have no news to tell you. I am still on this Court Martial, and it is quite pleasant, for we have got quite well acquainted, and have a comfortable room to sit in, and a very respectable dinner furnished daily by an old negro Benjamin, by name, whom we have fallen in with here. We expect to close to-morrow, but I shall be occupied for several days longer in writing up the proceedings.

Everything is quiet, and the Army is getting into loghuts. I am to have a loghut built to-morrow, and hope to be very comfortable indeed. Forts are being built here, and it looks like a long stay. For the last week the weather has been quite pleasant and not very cold.

The cars run now, and I am expected the Express will open. An Officer has come, and I shall get my boxes, and Butlers will come up and bring very comfort. Next time you send me anything please send a pair of suspenders. John will get them, and let them be fastened together by a bit of tape, as John's are.

I enclose a letter for Frank which please send when convenient. I expect some more post-paper soon and shall try to write to Sisters

Mary and Lizzie. I am the both letters. If I get my log house
up, and a good fireplace, I shall be very well off. I am still
Narrow the other day. He rode over to the Regiment. He is looking
very well and hearty.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Wth
Salem, Va. December 21st 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have written fully to John and to Father about the late battle &c., and these letters must do for you etc.

I want to direct your sympathy and charity to the families of my poor men who have fallen. John Connolly, Private in my Company, killed on the 11th leaves a father and mother in Roxbury at "Mayor Gaston's House", and Tho^s Carver has a wife and family in Boston. He worked for many years in Knott's Ladies' shoe store and they of course know where he lived. He has two sons in my Company, one of whom was in both battles and escaped injury. Corporal Cromwell, a most excellent man leaves a family in Braintree. Thomas Flannigan wounded by a shell leaves a family in Everett Street near Washington Street, Boston. He was once my servant and a most excellent man and soldier. I do not know how badly he is hurt. Private John Dillon, leg amputated, doing well, leaves a wife, Mary Dillon in rear of Pinebury Street. He was a most excellent man. 1st Sergeant Champion right arm amputated has a family in Boston. If you would visit any of these families, especially Flannigan's and Dillon's I should be very much obliged. As soon as we are paid off I shall send John some money and shall then do if you would assist any of these

you see fit, for me.

I think we ought to do what we can for those poor people who have risked and endured so much for us.

Please say to Mrs. Dillon that I will send her husband's pay to her as soon as I can get it, as he requested.

I know Mary Ann would like to visit some of these families. Company I (Abbott) and my Company suffered worst of all. We were the leading Company.

I am very comfortable in my new house. We shall no doubt winter here. I hope the Express will soon run. James will tell you all about things here and the battles, and I hope he will soon return and bring me many useful things. James is a good meaning fellow and on the whole I like him. He is honest and faithful at any rate.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Mass: Volunteers
near Fort Moultrie, S.C. December 20th 1862.

My dear Mother.

I have just received yours of the 20th December and for this and the previous two am much obliged. I have now got
letters from home. I was amused to see in one of your letters an illusion to my adventure in the woods at Yorktown last Spring, as if it was a very narrow escape for me. I hope I did not give you that impression in my letters. I was not in any danger then, and only escaped a rather uncomfortable night and loss of supper.

We have intended to make so much of Christmas as possible, and Abbott and I were to have had a combined dinner in my bed, but the afternoon before we were detained for Chick and so spent the day and night there and have just got in. Abbott and I however went to a house and got quite a respectable dinner, and tried to believe we were keeping Christmas. Here we saw the evils of war, for the poor old woman told us that her cows and sheep had all been stolen by the soldiers and her fences torn down and that she hardly knew what to get to eat.

Mr. Boulton has been here all day yesterday, he has a fine time dining with the Generals and high Officers. He is a very agreeable man and seems to enjoy his visit very much. To-night he stays with

me, after supper, with Nelson. I have to-day heard that our Corps
is to move to Alexandria. I hardly know whether or not to
believe it.

I suppose you have seen James Mc. Cochran, and I dare say
he will bring on the Christmas dinner you were so kind as to prepare
for me. Mr. Bond has brought me Towels, handkerchiefs, soap &c., and
Abbott has given me the shirt, for all which much obliged. If
you do not send a pair drawers (ribbed woolen) by James, please send
them by mail lightly wrapped in brown paper, and with 2 or 3 stamps
only. Also a pair woolen socks like the last. These can come easily
by mail.

I wrote to you about my wounded man. I should be very glad
if you would visit Mrs. Flannigan, Pleasant Street, near Washington,
right hand side as you go to Washington S^t., and tell her that her hus=
band, Thomas Flannigan, is only slightly wounded in the foot, and
is at a Hospital near Washington. Flannigan is an excellent man
and has done a great deal for me, and I would like to be of service to
him in any way I can.

Best love to all. I shall write to Frank and to others abroad
when I get some post paper.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Sunday evening January 1st 1863.
Camp 20th Regiment.

My dear Mother.

I have received your letter of the 20th and one from Father with it and I am indeed very sorry to hear of John Mc. Feely's death. He was a most excellent man, and I am sure he tried always to do his duty and was faithful and honest. He is a great loss to you, for I suppose you will hardly feel as safe with a new man to drive.

Mr. Boulnois is to-day at Corps Headquarters, but I expect him this evening. He is a most universal favorite, and a man of uncommon social qualities, certainly for an Englishman. He likes the Army and especially the Regiment very much.

At last you will be glad to know that the Express has opened and I have received to-day my 2 boxes and a bag. The bag contains 2 Blankets - most excellent ones - Coats, trousers, shirts, socks, drawers, &c. So please do not send me by mail the socks and drawers I asked for. I am now abundantly supplied with all kinds of clothes. In one box (that sent by Grafton) was the Cherry brandy, Brandy, Tea, Coffee &c. and in the other the new shelter tent, books &c. &c., all of which are most acceptable, and will contribute greatly to my comfort and health. I have just got out of Tea and have been obliged to offer our miserable Coffee to Mr. Boulnois when this opportunity

arrived. Our Commissary is now out of everything, and we have eaten our last potato and piece of meat, but expect a supply to-morrow. In fact I began to get tired of offering Boudinot day after day - nothing but beef fried or beef stewed for breakfast and dinner all the same, for this, with occasionally flour or potatoes, has been about all I could get. But I am astonished to see how easily he puts up with anything and declares he enjoys Stew above everything and could not be better fed &c. Although when he goes to Headquarters he dines on Canvas back Ducks and Champagne. Now that supplies and Sutlers are allowed the Camps will be more cheerful and the Officers and men healthier. I found tacked to Grafton's box a letter from Father of September 22^d and from Mary Ann of same date, and in the other box one from John of November 19th all which please acknowledge. Herbert's lantern &c. arrived all right. Nothing in any of the boxes or bag was injured in the least.

You were very kind to get me up such a nice Christmas box. I dare say I shall get it soon now.

There is every reason to believe we shall winter here. Things are perfectly quiet. Weather pleasant, cool at night, warm in midday. I send a pair of 2^d Lieutenant Straps belonging to my dress coat. Please ask John to have a 1st Lieutenant's bars put in, and send them back by mail. A small bit of gold braid might be neatly sewed in by any one. Best love to Father and all.

Your affectionate Son Henry

Camp 20th Mass.
Jan^y 12th 1863.

My dear Mother.

I have just received your letter of Jan^y 7th. You need not be in the least anxious about Picket for there is no enemy anywhere near our line. We picket on the flanks towards Warehous and Culpepper and have never seen the first sign of an enemy. It is only a necessary precaution to take. An Army is always surrounded by pickets, whether there is an enemy near or not. Our Cavalry go out scouting far beyond the pickets. I am very sorry the Colonel is so poorly. Did you see a letter we all signed to him? I think it was excellent. Melrose wrote it. I shall be delighted to get the Christmas box you speak of, and the valise which I now expect daily. I am very sorry for James, but fear he does not want to come back and so is playing off. Unless he returns immediately I shall be glad to get rid of him. I am very much obliged to you for seeing after the families of my wounded men. I wrote to the nearest relatives of those who were killed, as soon as I could write after the battle, and from some I have received some very thankful letters in reply. I am glad to hear Dr. Frantz is getting on so well. I shall write to him very soon. Thank you for the post paper received by mail in the stocking. Mr. Coulter, as I have written to John is quite unwell and fears a return of his Chest

trouble. We expect soon to return to Boston for treatment. We have had a heavy rain here and now the weather is quite cold again. I am abundantly supplied with clothes now, and am perfectly comfortable. The Regiment goes to-day on picket, but I do not, as I am again put on a Court this time however not a very important one. You say nothing of a new Colonel for our Regiment and this silence with John's remarks in a letter received yesterday sets us all quite at ease. We have heard that a Frenchman was to be sent out here to command us and were of course highly indignant.

I enclose an order for a pair of boots which I wish John would have made by Rice and sent out by Express. Also an order for a cap to be sent out at the same time.

Please tell John to put in a package of tacks (carpet size) and 2 or 3 lbs. Nails in the next box he sends. Nails are very scarce here. I was obliged to pay 75 Cents for 3 lbs. to build my hut with, and if they would keep and not break I should be glad to get some eggs in a box.

We hear rumors of Mr. Ellan's return but I place no confidence in them as yet.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

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Dorchester, N. H. March 10th - 1863.

My dear Mother.

I have not received letters from home to-day, the last I received was from Brother Joseph. I have acknowledged the receipt of the shirts but am very sorry to say they are too small. Abbott however needs some and he took them of me. So if you will tell me what they cost I will get it of him. I wish you would get me 2 more of the same size as the one you sent out about a month ago. All these woollen shirts shrink constantly. Those I now have were made to order, and are now much too small. Please let the new ones be 42 inches round the Chest (that is what they call 21 inches at the Store) and 17 inches in the neck. Sleeves &c. much longer than you could think it possible for me to wear. Wrists also quite large. If I do not make this allowance for shrinkage, the shirts will be too small before they are worn out. I should also like 2 good thin undershirts, for I shall send back my present thick ones soon. I am very sorry for the loss of my new boots, but as I bought a pair in Baltimore, I will not order a second pair. I am exceedingly sorry to lose the nice preserves &c. I am abundantly supplied with all kinds of Clothing. If you can conveniently I should be very glad to have you call on Mrs. Rodgers, No. 2 Board Alley, (Boston leads out of Purchase St. I believe). Her husband was in my Company

and was an excellent man. He fell sick at Bolivar and went into Hospital. His wife has written to me twice and both times I have had to tell her that I had heard nothing from him. I have written to the Surgeon in charge of the last Hospital where I know he was, and intend to find out all I can about him. I dare say you could comfort her a good deal by a short call. Perhaps my letters never reached her.

As to Mrs. Humphrey I have not seen or heard of her or her husband. There is due him for work on the Post Bakery \$1.⁵⁰ If you can give it to him and get his receipt for it, I shall be much obliged, for I am Treasurer of the Post Fund and have to pay out all moneys for Regimental purposes.

I have heard that Humphrey is discharged, but I hardly believe it, for he always seemed a stout man and was generally well. Please hand the enclosed little Memorandum to Herbert Mason. John will see him probably quite often. Herbert will bring on the shirts no doubt. If he cannot, the Sergeant Major of the Regiment who is soon going home on furlough will. Please let me know if you shall have anything to send in about 2 weeks, and I will ask the Sergeant Major to call and get it. I have received a letter for Flannigan in John's handwriting. Flannigan is not here and I did not know he was coming on. All well and comfortable, but rather dull without Herbert.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Salmouth, Va. March 22^d 1863.
Sunday.

My dear Mother.

I wrote to you some time ago and asked you to call on Mrs. Rodgers, wife of private, James Rodgers of my Company, as she had twice written to me about her husband, and seemed to be much distressed, not having heard from him for a long time. I replied to her letters and have written to the Surgeon of the Hospital where he was sent, that I might be able to tell her all about him. Yesterday I received an answer telling me that Rodgers died at the Convalescent Hospital, Alexandria, Va. on November 29th 1862, five days after he was admitted there. Dr. B. Hunt was the Surgeon in charge. This is all I can find out about Rodgers. He was a most faithful man and never shirked any duty and kept up on our long marches before Antietam, although he was pretty well used up then. His pay and clothing accounts and final Statement have no doubt been sent in to the War Office by the Surgeon, and Mrs. Rodgers can get what money was due by applying to the New England War Protective Claim Association. No papers from me are necessary. I return two letters directed to Rodgers. Now if you would go to see Mrs. Rodgers and break to her the news of her husband's death and tell her all that I have written, I should be much obliged, and it would be a great kindness to her. She lives No. 2 Board Alley

(near Purchase Street) Boston. If it is not a proper place for you to go to, I dare say John would go.

The shirts are most excellent, and the right size. Next time you have an opportunity please send out 2 very thin undershirts. Also if convenient 5 or 6 Tapes marked in so large letters as possible " Σ^+ Tapes, 20th Mass." These are for my blankets &c. Herbert desires his regards &c. to you, and says he was very sorry to find you out when he called. We have now had snow and drizzling rain for 3 days, and plenty of mud. No prospect of active operations for some weeks. Many of our Officers have returned, and it is getting more cheerful every day.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Camp 20th Mass.
Falmouth, Me.

My dear Mother.

[30 January, 1862.]

I wrote to Father about the arrival of my valise, and now thank you very much for the many delicacies it contained, all of which I shall enjoy exceedingly. I am very sorry the wine was lost, but I see that it is not safe to send bottles in anything which could be easily jammed. The crockery will be very useful. As I must now have most of that old set, I am going to ask you to send when you next have a box or anything coming, 2 or 3 of those little egg cups. They would be very nice not only for their proper use, but for liquors, or for mustard, pepper and salt. I think they would be very convenient. I find myself getting more and more comfortable every day, and have now plenty of everything necessary though of course should greatly enjoy the dinner you sent. Joseph is to get me some poultry in Washington. Herbert and I now room and mess together, and find it very pleasant. Please ask John to call on Mrs. Patrick O'Hara, wife of my pioneer, when he has time, and pay her Ten Dollars from her husband. She lives in 2 No. 30 West Cedar Street. John can take the money from my account, as O'Hara has paid it already to me. Joseph will tell you all about things here better than I can write. All were delighted with his visit. I received to-day your letter

of January 26th. I have told Joseph everything that I want and he will explain to you about the shirts. I am very glad you have seen Flannigan. I wrote to him to draw on John for \$20.00 as a loan from me till he is paid. I sent some money home by Joseph. I told him to tell you and Mary Ann to make use of any surplus as you saw best in aiding any poor wounded men and their families. Flannigan is a most excellent man though perhaps rather rough. I enclose a letter for sister Mary which Father will please send. I did not seal the envelope, thinking they might want to put more in. Herbert has had a bad sore throat, or rather mouth, a sort of swelled face, but is about well now.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Falmouth, Va. April 2^d 1863.

My dear Mother.

I have just received your letter of March 27th, the first from home for a long time.

Abbott left this morning and by him I sent a hurried note to him. I hope you will see a good deal of Abbott. I know you would like him very much, and I am sure he would like to see you all too. Abbott, you know, has always been with the Regiment and is one of the very best Officers we have. He and I are very intimate indeed.

The socks by private carrier have come on all right and are very useful. The box was received duly and acknowledged. Its contents were most acceptable. The pies and tongue were capital.

I am very sorry you had so much trouble about Mrs. Rodgers. I did not know where "Boards Alley" was myself, but one of the men told me it was close to Purchase Street.

I hope Mary Ann will go to Newport this summer. Such trips are just what she needs, and a very pleasant change from Swampscott. I have received no letters from her for about 2 weeks, but Father says she sent several, and so I fear they are lost. I hope she will write again the same letters. We are quite busy now with our quarter-ly returns, which must go in this week.

Yesterday we had a visit from our old Classmate, Temple, Capt. 17th Infantry. He looked remarkably well and has grown a great deal taller.

I sent home by Express a few days ago a box and two Buffalo skins, one mine and one Herbert's. In the box were a number of things belonging to Herbert, and I put in the top a list of these things. Please send them with the box to Mr. Chas. Appleton, Beacon Street. The rest of the contents of the box are mine which please keep. I enclose the receipt of the Express Company. Flannigan and Corporal Humphreys are discharged and are probably home by this time. Flannigan is a most excellent man and I hope he will get a pension if he is permanently disabled. I dare say he may not know how to go to work but John would show him. All well.

Your affectionate son

Henry.

Salmouth, Va. April 24th 1863.

My Dear Mother.

I have just received yours of the 22^d. I entirely forgot to mention that in the box I sent home was an old coat belonging to my servant Swill which he did not want to throw away and I took it to fill up. If you could keep it till next autumn I dare say it can be sent out to him again when he needs it. I am very glad all the other things came safely. I have since sent home another box, containing an extra blanket, some boots &c. about which I have written to John. It contains also that silver watch which has given me so much trouble. I have asked John to get me another and dispose of that one.

I am very sorry to hear that Dr. Mercer is to leave Trinity and glad to know you will still have him this summer at Newport. No doubt the change from Swampscott will be a benefit to you, and especially to Mary Ann, who I suppose must be rather tired of Swampscott. We are all quiet, and the move seems either to be given up, or to have been merely a hoax to distract the enemy. We have had a great deal of rain, and the river is very high still.

I have got a very nice letter from my old friend Charlie Grinnell, of Baltimore, who you know is studying for the Ministry at New Haven. He is soon to visit Boston and I hope you will see him often, for

He is a most excellent fellow, and one of my best friends. His parents treated John and me very kindly in Baltimore. I have no news whatever to tell you.

Your affectionate son
Henry.

Baltimore Md.

May 9, 1863.

My dear Mother,

I received last night your letter of the 4th and father's of the 5th. I am sorry to find that you share in the prejudice against McCallan. Remember that documents have since come to light which show that he was not only not responsible for his ill success, but that if his advice had been followed, success would have been sure. Thus we know that if Mc Dowell had advanced Richmond would have fallen, and if McCallan's advice had been taken Harper's Ferry would have held out, and Antietam been a complete victory. As is often the case, the prejudices against the man remain long after the causes of it have been removed. I fully believe that McCallan will yet occupy the first place in the country, and if not left

till too late, will save us all yet and crush the rebellion. McCallan saw from the outset what people at home cannot see yet, that this rebellion is a great and powerful one, and that the rebel army is not a rout of starved and half clothed savages, but a regular army, conducted by experienced & educated Generals, and an army, which will keep on repulsing all insane and desperate attempts to set the rules of war at defiance and rush blindly on.

The time of a large part of our troops is nearly up, and the old Regiments are very much reduced in numbers, and if this rebellion is to be put down we must now have a long rest and raise a new army and drill and discipline it, and bring back every good officer, and then with our best and surest Officer at the head, we may reasonably hope for success.

I am very glad you are going to Newport, which I have no doubt will agree with M. A. Glad the boxes came safely - as did your things, (watch &c.) for me. I am abundantly supplied with clothing of every kind, but would be much obliged to you to send when convenient 2 pair liners

drawers for the approaching hot weather. Only 2 pair. The 6 pair socks I have distributed to the men except 2 pairs for Herbert Mason and me. They were unusually nice ones. I am very glad that Brother Joseph received the money for the Irish Fund safely.

Today it has cleared off finely. I can learn nothing about future movements, but my own opinion is that this Army will be withdrawn to the vicinity of Washington, and perhaps broken up to reinforce the West and South. Very likely a show of crossing below will be made to draw off the enemy from above.

We hear from those who were engaged on the right that it was a terrible battle, and a very disorderly one - that there appeared to be no head, no particular plan, and that the men were massed and shoved forward and fell back again, and this seemed to be all. The cavalry raid was a brilliant thing, and had it been done a few days

before might have prevented the arrival of Longstreets, but as it was Longstreet whom we thought to be at Suffolk was the first to fight us.

Hooker appears to have done his best, and to have acted most bravely, but I think he has shown his inability to take in so vast a field, and thus the enemy beat him by degrees.

I should not be at all surprised if the Administration, willing to appease the great McClellan party, should put in Franklin as commander of this army. This would be a step in the right direction, but we want the abilities of Hooker, Franklin, Porter, Smith and all the good generals we have, and them all directed to right ends by the master mind of McClellan.

Your affec. son
Henry.

Mrs. Wm. Ropes.

Salmon, Va. May 30th 1863.

My dear Mother.

I received just now your letter of the 20th and Father's of same date enclosing the receipt for the box. Do you know I arrived here in safety, and am comfortably established in my old quarters. I enjoyed my visit home very much. It is very pleasant to look back on so much kindness from every one at home. I shall not forget it at all.

The weather has been very pleasant here, and not very hot, but it is rather dusty. Day before yesterday we had a grand Division Review. Genls. Cooke, Hancock & Gibbon were there, and after the display I went by invitation to Headquarters where all the Generals and a great many Officers were collected, all of course in full dress, and a Band was playing. It was quite a pleasant meeting. There were three Ladies from Genl. Cooke's Headquarters there to see the review - one of them a daughter of the late Secretary Cameron. A large tub of iced punch was served under the shade of a tree, and handed round by negro servants. Altogether it was quite a day.

I passed a very pleasant Sunday with Mr. Trask and was glad to find Martha and the children so well. At church we saw Mrs. Genl. McCallan and Genl. Stoneman.

I am very sorry to hear to-day that Genl. Couch is relieved from Command. Thus we lay aside in succession our best Officers.

I do not believe Vicksburg is taken and did not when I saw the reports. They were so unlikely and absurd. To talk of taking Vicksburg from 20,000 men after losing 2500 is simply nonsense.

I think on the contrary that Grant is in the very greatest danger of being utterly defeated by Johnston. It seems to me the Rebels will reinforce Johnston with Beauregard, overwhelm Grant and then turn on Rosecrans who by that time will have left his present strong position and defeat him with superior numbers. However we must hope for the best, but I myself do not look for a successful campaign in the West.

Love to all.

Your affectionate Son
Henry.

Please give the enclosed photograph of St. Conspill of our Regiment to Mary Ann to put in my book.

June 11th 1863.

My Dear Mother.

I have really nothing to write to you about except to say that all is quiet and that we are very comfortable. We have had no rain for some weeks and the roads are very dusty indeed, but the weather has not been oppressively hot. I hope soon to hear that you are enjoying the summer at Newport.

I had the Orange Marmalade boiled, and this process took away all the taste of fermentation, and it is very nice now.

Genl. Couch is relieved, so we shall lose our friend, Captain Potter, of whom I spoke to you. He rode over this morning to say good bye.

Lind our horse very much improved and ride constantly. The farms near the town are beginning to look nicely again.

All well.

Affectionately
Henry.

Head Quarters 3^d Brig. 2^d Divⁿ
Nov. 5, 1863.

John C. Ropes Esq.
Dear Sir

I intended long before this to have written you a few lines in accordance with the expressed wish of your late Brother Lt. Ropes with whom I was servant as perhaps you are aware, but knowing that the Officers of the 5th must have written you full particulars of the event, and our late rapid movements, I was prevented from fulfilling my desire, and altho' I may have nothing new or of any additional interest to communicate yet I think it my duty to write in accordance with the wishes of your late Brother. When he died from his wounds at the battle of Gettysburg, Capt. Abbott found in his pocket \$128. notes and one dollar in silver and his watch and chain which he handed to me and afterwards returned him for the purpose of being restored to you. It will be satisfactory to me to learn that you received the property all in proper order. —

When Lt. Ropes sent home his superfluous clothing last spring from Falmouth, Va. there was also a blue cloth military overcoat belonging to me sent with the rest, if it is not putting you to too much trouble, I should feel obliged by your causing it to be expressed to me here as I require it much, and do not fancy the idea of drawing a new one for only one winter's wear, as they cost considerable \$7.50

The envelope covering this was one written by your late Brother and found in his valise, together with one directed to his Father, which if you wish to have I shall send — I need

not here assure you of my sympathy in the
loss sustained by your family in the death of
Lt. Ropes, he was also my best friend in the
army, and on many accounts I deplore his
death.

With much respect

I remain

Your Very Obedt. Servt-

James Smith

Head Qrs

3^d Brig.

2^d Divⁿ

2nd Corps

A. P.

Camp near Brandy Station
Nov. 19. 1863.

John Ropes Esq.

Dear Sir

Your kind letter of the 15th I received on the 10th and now have pleasure in replying - On the 17th Dr. Mr. Follen handed me \$21. for which I beg you to accept my best thanks, and also for the assurances you give of the interest you express in my future welfare. I enclose the Envelope addressed by your late Brother as you request. The overcoat has not yet arrived but no doubt I will receive it when the express matter comes up. You ask me a question "of my own personal knowledge" relating to your late Brother which I am happy in having it in my power to answer. Your Brother was reading one of Dickens' Novels in a sitting posture slightly reclining and it is my opinion he could not have possibly received the wound he did unless in that position. --- The photograph of your late Brother I am truly glad to have in my possession, nothing you have sent me is so valuable in my estimation, and I shall treasure it as a memento of one whom I not only greatly respected, but to whom I was much attached. Should it be my good fortune to reach Boston after the conclusion of my period of service, I shall feel it not only a privilege and a pleasure but also a duty to call for you and have the pleasure of your acquaintance, with much respect I remain

Yours very truly
James Smith.

